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Translated by : Quixoticpixel
Proof-read by : Kysle
Cleaned by : Amssae
Typeset by : rxwang
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Real Clothes

by Makimura Satoru

槇村さとる
MAKIMURA SATORU

Somehow – no,
by any means necessary! –
I want to wear clothes elegantly!
That's what I think, but then right away
there's a problem. "If I don't have a
good, firm, healthy body, it's no good
no matter what I wear" – That's the
reality. Damn, my body? Well, I guess
it would be my body. Ah... If only I had
a hot body, I could wear a T-shirt and
jeans anywhere successfully. And then
a good jacket, and colorful shoes, and
an impressive belt, and power stones,
and a thin, soft sweater, and a dignified
coat and bag. With just that, my heart
can remain peaceful (?).
Hee hee hee... First is a diet!

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Real Clothes 3

リアル・クローズ

YOU QUEEN'S COMICS

Real Clothes 3

リアル・クローズ

槇村さとる

集英社

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Work is something so frustrating and yet so much fun! A realization that gave her a groundwork to make a decision on the direction of her life...

As soon as she passes the manager's test, Kinue is all set to transfer to the Ladies' Merchandise 3rd Department by Tabusa's personal designation, and she starts to build her new career as a buyer. And then there's also a change for Tatsuya, who is watching over the work-absorbed Kinue... Also, Kinue will gain ground on a "decision"!!

Real Clothes 3
Makimura Satoru

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Cover Art / Makimura Satoru
Cover Design / Shinkami Hiroshi

QUEEN'S COMICS

Real Clothes 3

CONTENTS

Chapter 13 — 3

Chapter 14 — 33

Chapter 15 — 55

Chapter 16 — 77

Chapter 17 — 99

Chapter 18 — 121

Chapter 19 — 143

Chapter 20 — 165

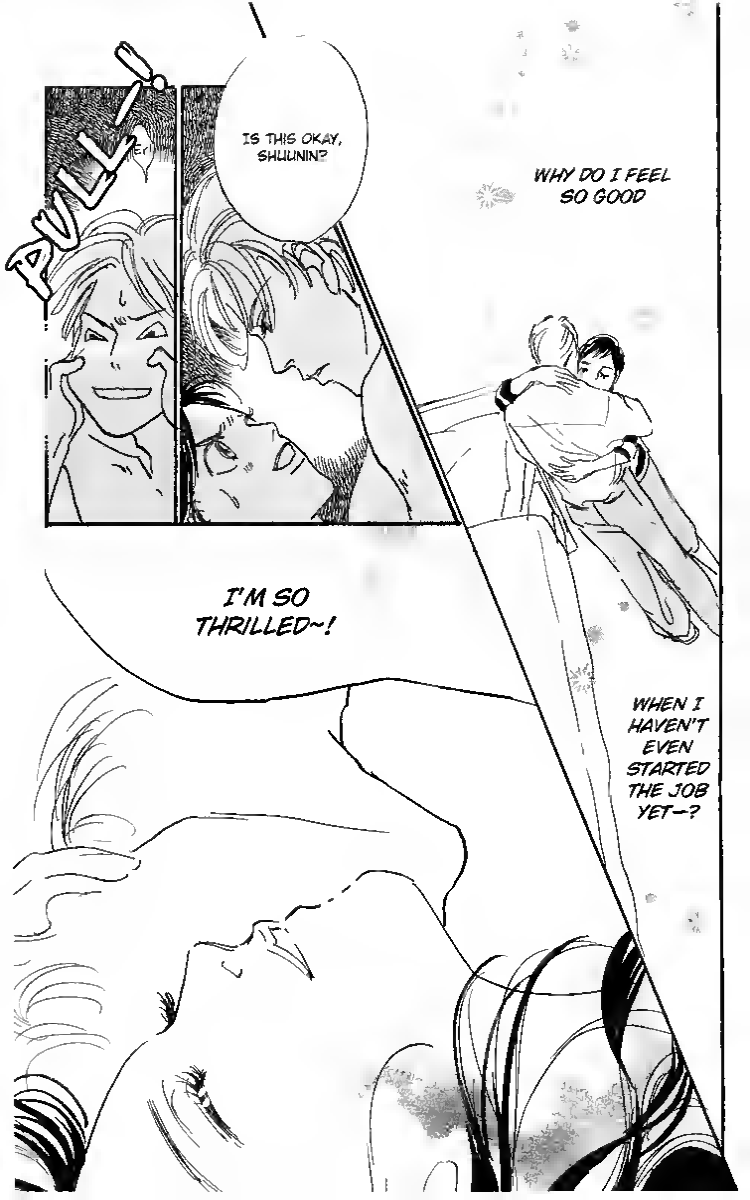
Chapter 21 — 187

Real Clothes 3

T/N *Shuunin Is the title given for senior staff or a person in charge on a lower level.

Real Clothes

Chapter 13


PULL-!
IS THIS OKAY, SHUUNIN?
WHY DO I FEEL SO GOOD
I'M SO THRILLED~!
WHEN I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED THE JOB YET~?

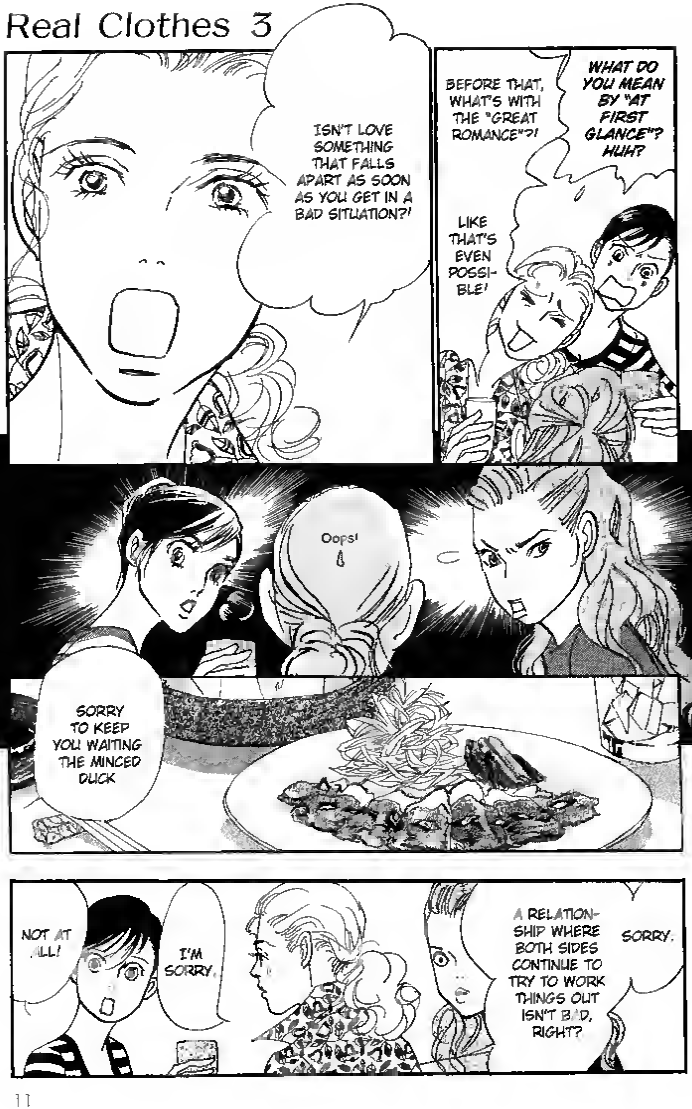
T/N: In many Asian countries, documents are acknowledged not with a person's signature but a small stamp bearing that person's name. In Japan these stamps are called Hankos.

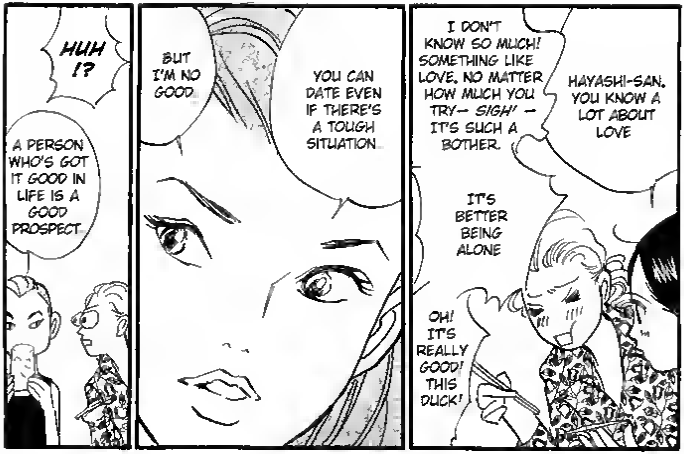
SPARKLE~!
A BLAZER—!
PLEASE STAMP YOUR HANKO* HERE
HERE IS YOUR SUIT WITH INNERWEAR IN A MEDIUM.
AMANO-SAN, SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
General Affairs Section
A MANAGER'S UNIFORM—
Good morning
YOU LOOK GOOD IN IT
BUT THE WORKPLACE AND PEOPLE ARE THE SAME AS BEFORE, SO I'M NOT THAT NERVOUS
STARTING TODAY, I'LL HAVE MANAGER'S TRAINING— MY HEART IS POUNDING.

THE PRESSURE TO SELL WEIGHS HEAVILY ON MANAGERS.
THE MANAGERS ARE TO MANAGE SALES MANAGING STOCK IS DIFFERENT.
OKAY
HERE IS THIS WEEK'S SALES GOAL.
NOT JUST SELLING,
YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE WHOLE SALES FLOOR TO TELL WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
BUT THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU'LL SELL WHILE TAKING IN THE STRATEGIES FROM THE HIGHER-UPS.
UNDER-STOOD
HAVING EYES THAT SEE THE ENTIRE SALES FLOOR IS FUNDAMENTAL

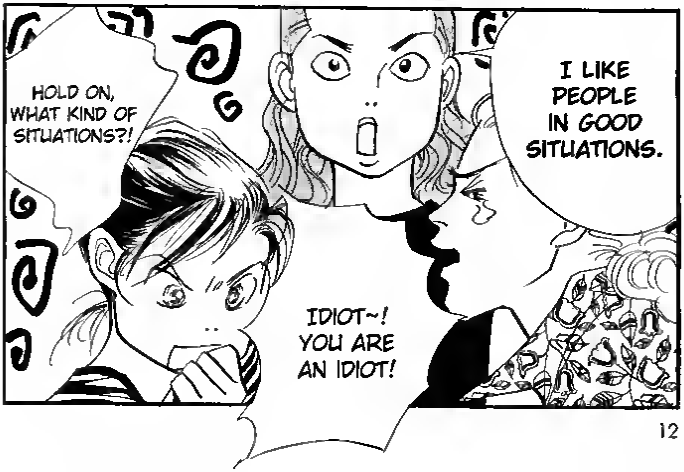
I'M RELYING ON BOTH OF YOUR ABILITIES TO COMMAND HUMAN NATURE.
PLEASE GRANT YOUR AID UPON THIS HUMBLE SUPPLICANT TONIGHT, OF COURSE, IS MY TREAT.
MANAGING OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS IS THE MOST TROUBLESOME PART, SEE.
YOUR BOYFRIEND SEEMS LIKE A NICE GUY. I'VE SEEN HIM.
Gottsuan•
I'll take you up on it
SO YOUR BOYFRIEND GAVE YOU THE OKAY TO WORK. HOW OPEN-MINDED~
SO YOU PLAN ON HAVING BOTH A GREAT JOB AND A GREAT ROMANCE?
He IS nice!
IS THAT THE DEAL?
AND YOU SEEM LIKE SUCH A RESERVED AND CONSERVATIVE LADY...
WELL, AT FIRST GLANCE.

T/N This is a phrase sumo wrestlers use to say "thank you."

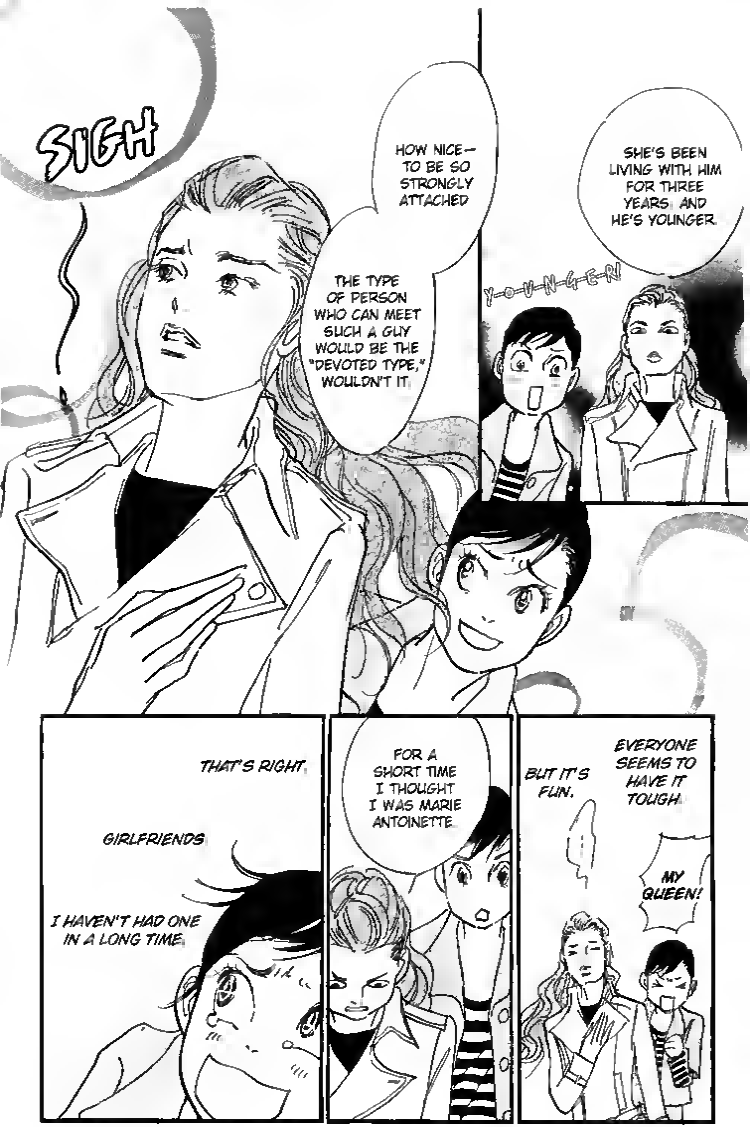

ISN'T LOVE SOMETHING THAT FALLS APART AS SOON AS YOU GET IN A BAD SITUATION?!
BEFORE THAT, WHAT'S WITH THE "GREAT ROMANCE"?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "AT FIRST GLANCE"? HUH?
LIKE THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE!
Oops!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING THE MINCED DUCK
NOT AT ALL!
I'M SORRY.
A RELATIONSHIP WHERE BOTH SIDES CONTINUE TO TRY TO WORK THINGS OUT ISN'T BAD, RIGHT?
SORRY.


HUH!?
A PERSON WHO'S GOT IT GOOD IN LIFE IS A GOOD PROSPECT.
BUT I'M NO GOOD.
YOU CAN DATE EVEN IF THERE'S A TOUGH SITUATION.
I DON'T KNOW SO MUCH! SOMETHING LIKE LOVE. NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY— SIGH — IT'S SUCH A BOTHER.
HAYASHI-SAN. YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT LOVE
IT'S BETTER BEING ALONE
OH! IT'S REALLY GOOD! THIS DUCK!

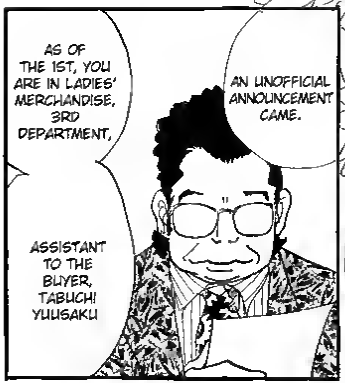
ISN'T "LIKING" SOMEONE THE BASIS FOR A RELATIONSHIP?
THAT WOULD BE IDEAL, BUT
.....

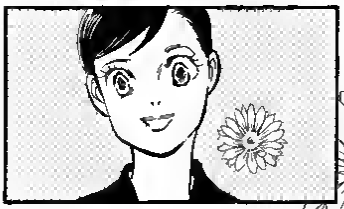

HOLD ON, WHAT KIND OF SITUATIONS?!
I LIKE PEOPLE IN GOOD SITUATIONS.
IDIOT~! YOU ARE AN IDIOT!

EH!
YOU GOT YOUR HEART BROKEN—?!
BAM!
WOAH!
I BET THAT WOULDN'T LAST.
WHEN I'M TIRED, HE LEAVES ME ALONE
WHEN I WANT TO SEE HIM, HE COMES RUNNING!
SELFISH ME, WITH THE SPIRIT OF A QUEEN
RIGHT!
GOOD NIGHT
SEE YA
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SO COOL IN FRONT OF GUYS,
SHE'S THE KIND WHO ENDS UP ANGRY.
HAYASHI-SAN, YOU KNOW,

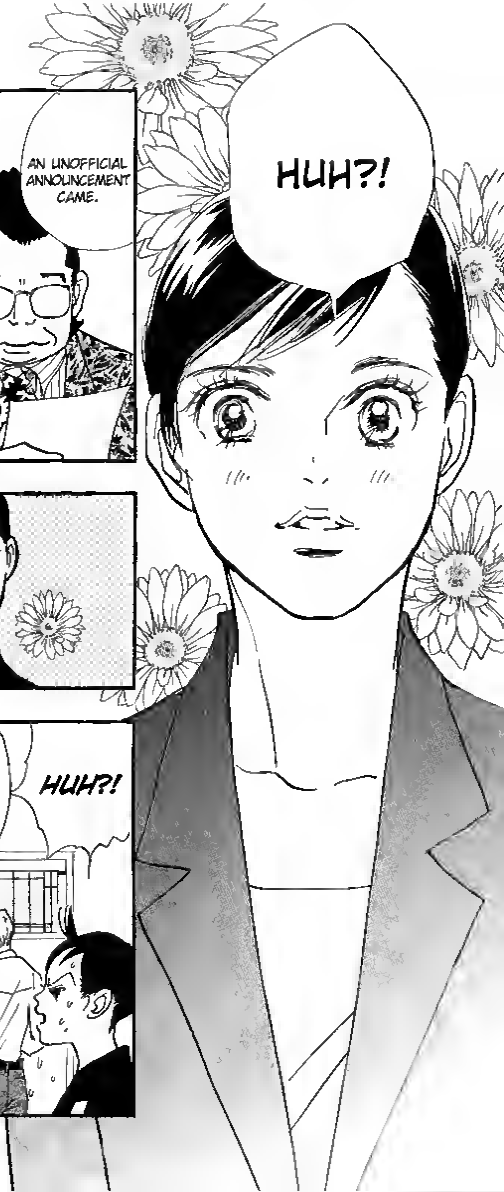

SIGH
THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO CAN MEET SUCH A GUY WOULD BE THE "DEVOTED TYPE," WOULDN'T IT.
HOW NICE— TO BE SO STRONGLY ATTACHED
Y-O-U-N-G-E-R!
SHE'S BEEN LIVING WITH HIM FOR THREE YEARS. AND HE'S YOUNGER.
THAT'S RIGHT. GIRLFRIENDS. I HAVEN'T HAD ONE IN A LONG TIME.
FOR A SHORT TIME I THOUGHT I WAS MARIE ANTOINETTE.
BUT IT'S FUN.
EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE IT TOUGH.
MY QUEEN!

ANTOINETTE-SAMA!
WE'RE CROSSING!

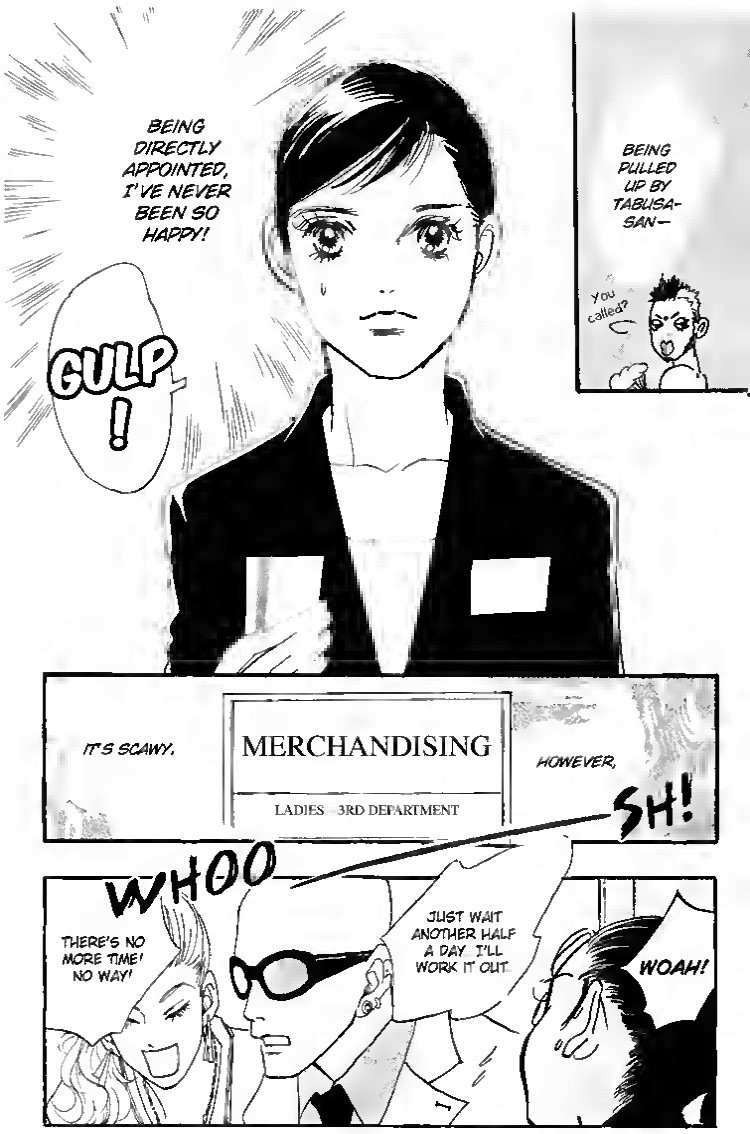

AS OF THE 1ST, YOU ARE IN LADIES' MERCHANDISE, 3RD DEPARTMENT,
AN UNOFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT CAME.
ASSISTANT TO THE BUYER, TABUCHI YUUSAKU



TABUSA CHOSE YOU DIRECTLY. SAID HE WANTED YOU.
HUH?!


HUH?!

YOU CERTAINLY GOT TO KNOW THE RIGHT PEOPLE, HUH.
RELENT-LESS!
STA
RE
OOH LA LA~
TABUSA IS THE PERFECT PARTNER. HAPPY?
I think you're mistaken
ARGH. SALARYMEN ARE
Excuse~ me
Anyone would die
Isn't it great- with a buyer ?!
Geez. I might die...
Huh?


BEING DIRECTLY APPOINTED, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY!
GULP!
BEING PULLED UP BY TABUSA-SAN—
You called?
IT'S SCARY.
MERCHANDISING
LADIES 3RD DEPARTMENT
HOWEVER,
SH!
WHOO
THERE'S NO MORE TIME! NO WAY!
JUST WAIT ANOTHER HALF A DAY. I'LL WORK IT OUT.
WOAH!

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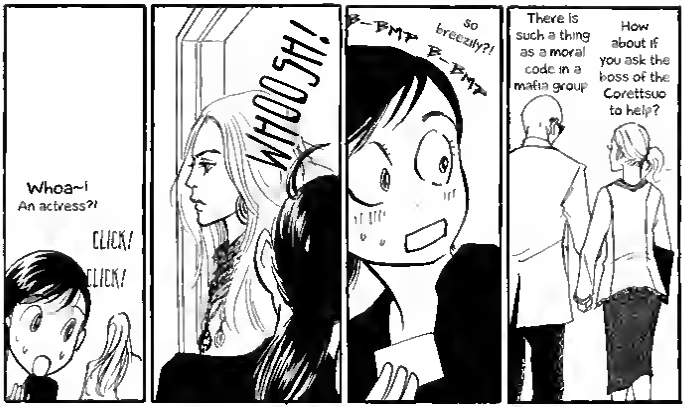
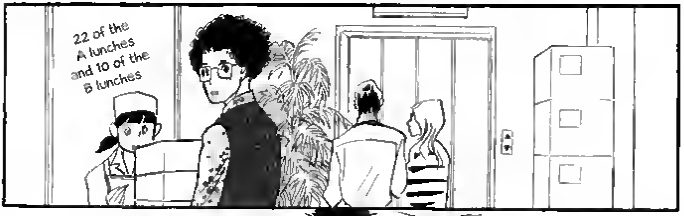
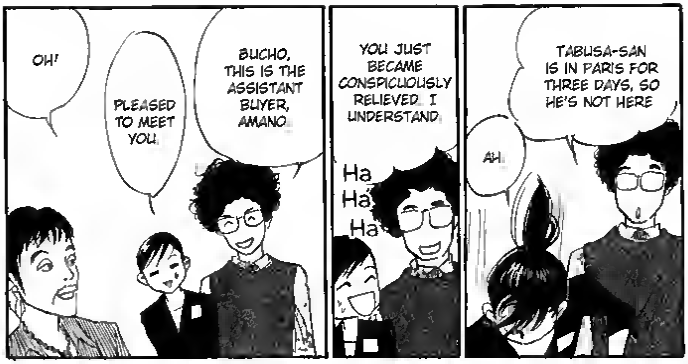

Whoa~! An actress?!
CLICK! CLICK!
WHOOSH!
So breezily?!
P-PMP P-PMP
There is such a thing as a moral code in a mafia group
How about if you ask the boss of the Corettsuo to help?

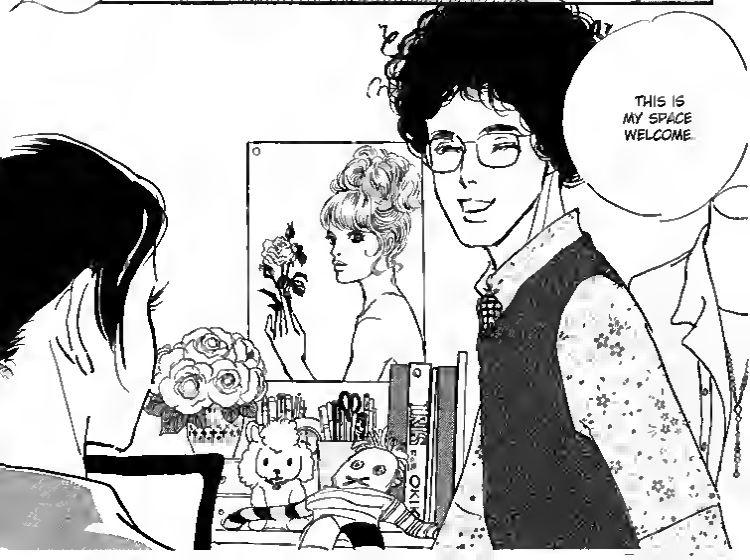


I WILL STAND FIRM!
WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? I'LL CALL THEM.
CAN I BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE?
丸弁当
丸弁当
丸弁当
I'M AMANO STARTING TODAY, I'LL BE TABUSA-SAN'S ASSISTANT.
OH
A-HAH!
I HEARD SO YOU'RE A WOMAN.
I'M SHIRAKAWA I DO THE ODD JOBS.
BEEP!
WHOOSH!
LET'S GO INSIDE

THIS IS THE NERVE CENTER OF ECHIZENYA.
OF THEM, THOSE CONNECTED TO LADIES ARE ALL IN HERE.
THERE ARE ABOUT 300 BUYERS IN THE COMPANY.
TABUSA-SAN'S SPOT IS IN THE BACK ON THE LEFT.
THANKS!


OH!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
BUCHO, THIS IS THE ASSISTANT BUYER, AMANO.
YOU JUST BECAME CONSPICUOUSLY RELIEVED. I UNDERSTAND.
Ha Ha Ha
AH.
TABUSA-SAN IS IN PARIS FOR THREE DAYS, SO HE'S NOT HERE

T/N Nikolin is Japanese for a smiley face or "grinning guy"

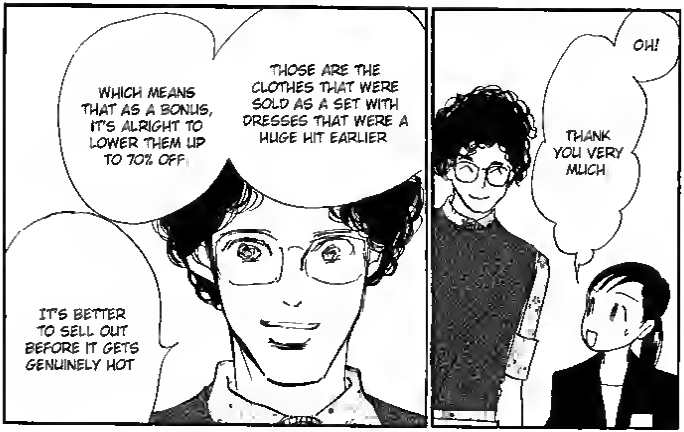


EH!?
cough
An afro...
blush...
TABUSA-SAN IS NOW STARTING TO BUY CLOTHES FOR NEXT YEAR—SPRING/SUMMER 2008
2008! NEXT YEAR'S! SUMMER!
I'M COORDINATING THE ORDERS OF THIS YEAR'S FALL/WINTER ITEMS.
AS FOR YOU,
I'M REQUESTING THAT YOU CONTROL THE STOCK FOR THESE SPRING/SUMMER ITEMS
THINGS THAT HARDLY SELL SHOULD BE QUICKLY CLEARANCED OUT AND PROMPTLY DISPOSED OF! AS IT GOES.

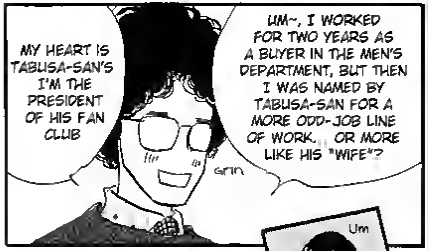
STARTING WITH THE NUMERICAL RESPONSIBILITIES IS WHAT MAKES A PROFESSIONAL BUYER
GATHERING PRODUCTS THAT WILL SELL IS A BUYER'S JOB.
BUT CLEARING PRODUCTS WE KNOW WON'T SELL IS ALSO A BUYER'S JOB.
CONSIGNMENT ITEMS ARE RETURNED.
PURCHASED GOODS GO STRAIGHT TO THE SALE RACKS.
WHAT PERCENTAGE OF A PRICE REDUCTION CROSSES FROM ADVANTAGE TO DISADVANTAGE WILL APPEAR HERE.
THIS SCARF, FOR INSTANCE— MARKING IT AT 30% OFF IS ENOUGH. WE STILL MAKE A PROFIT.

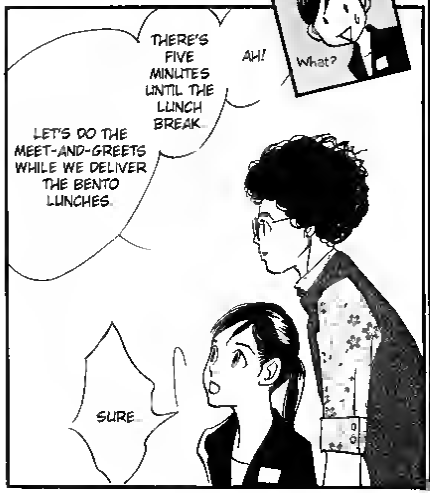
I don't really understand, but in the meantime
NOD
NOD
THE POWER OF A BUYER IS THE ABILITY TO ANALYZE AND SENSE THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND.
YES!
THINGS THAT WILL SELL, WILL SELL IF YOU LEAVE THEM ALONE.
GEH! WE SOLD 150 OF THESE!!
200 OF THESE JEANS?!
AMAZING!
AH
BUT THE THINGS THAT WON'T SELL ..

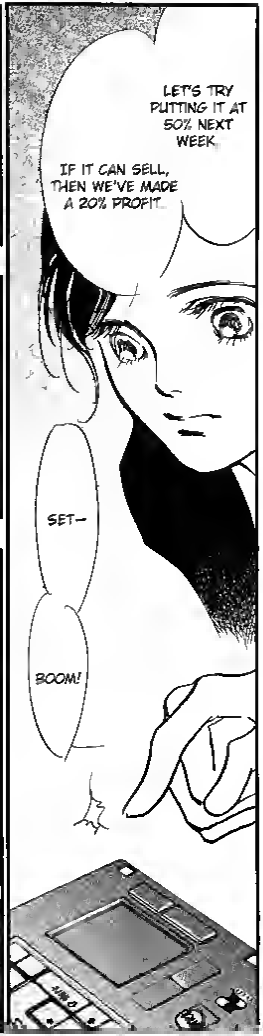
MAYBE THIS IS ONE OF TABUSA-SAN'S PURCHASES AS WELL?
A mistake...
WE HAVE 20 OF THEM.
ON TOP OF THAT, IT WAS PURCHASED FROM THE MAIN SHOP!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN SOLD ONE.
IT'S A DRESS THAT CAME ONTO THE SALES FLOOR A WEEK AGO. IT'S HARD TO SELL. IT'S TOO HIGH FASHION.
THIS ONE.
HERE YOU GO

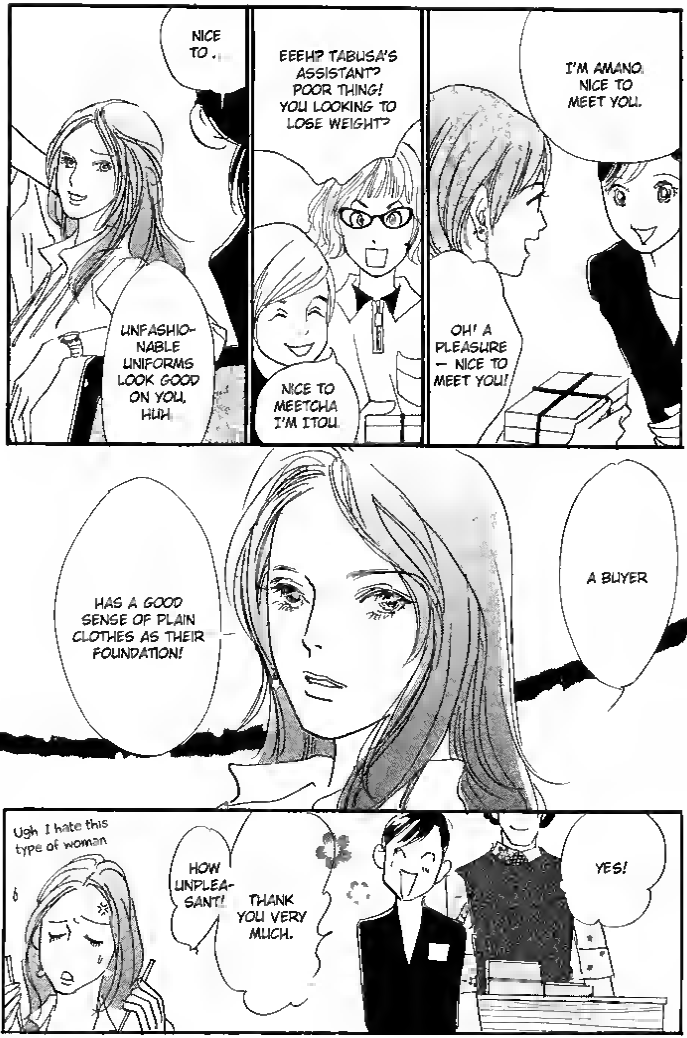

WHICH MEANS THAT AS A BONUS, IT'S ALRIGHT TO LOWER THEM UP TO 70% OFF.
THOSE ARE THE CLOTHES THAT WERE SOLD AS A SET WITH DRESSES THAT WERE A HUGE HIT EARLIER
IT'S BETTER TO SELL OUT BEFORE IT GETS GENUINELY HOT
OH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

YOU REALLY ARE A BUYER, HUH


MY HEART IS TABUSA-SAN'S I'M THE PRESIDENT OF HIS FAN CLUB
grin
UM~, I WORKED FOR TWO YEARS AS A BUYER IN THE MEN'S DEPARTMENT, BUT THEN I WAS NAMED BY TABUSA-SAN FOR A MORE ODD-JOB LINE OF WORK... OR MORE LIKE HIS "WIFE"?


Um
What?
AH!
THERE'S FIVE MINUTES UNTIL THE LUNCH BREAK
LET'S DO THE MEET-AND-GREETS WHILE WE DELIVER THE BENTO LUNCHES
SURE


LET'S TRY PUTTING IT AT 50% NEXT WEEK
IF IT CAN SELL, THEN WE'VE MADE A 20% PROFIT
SET—
BOOM!

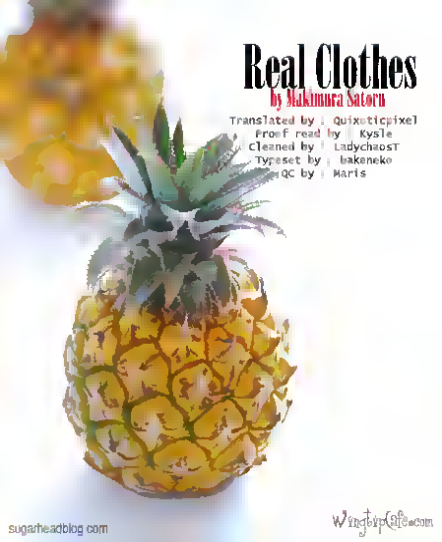

NICE TO...
UNFASHIONABLE UNIFORMS LOOK GOOD ON YOU, HUH.
EEEH? TABUSA'S ASSISTANT? POOR THING! YOU LOOKING TO LOSE WEIGHT?
NICE TO MEETCHA I'M ITOU.
I'M AMANO. NICE TO MEET YOU.
OH! A PLEASURE — NICE TO MEET YOU!
A BUYER
HAS A GOOD SENSE OF PLAIN CLOTHES AS THEIR FOUNDATION!
Ugh I hate this type of woman
HOW UNPLEASANT!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YES!

SPREAD BUTTER AND MUSTARD ON A FRESH BAGUETTE,
PILE ON JAMBON AND GRUYÈRE CHEESE.
TOSS!
Heh Heh
SP
LIT!

HERE.
EH?
I'LL GO TO THE CAFETERIA.
THANK YOU, BUT ISN'T THIS YOUR LUNCH?
CHOMP!
GULP
.....
WHEN WE'RE HUNGRY, LET'S SPLIT A LOAF OF BREAD.
WE ARE THE STAFF OF TABUSA YUUSAKU TOGETHER. WE SHARE THE SAME FATE.
LET'S SHARE OUR SUFFERING AND OUR JOY

DELI-CIOUS!
IT'S LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE RELAXED!
MY FULL NAME IS SHIRAKAWA NICHOLA BOUQUET YOROSHIKU.
I'M SO GLAD!
IS "NIKOLIN" YOUR NICKNAME?
LIKE... WOAH. THAT IS TOTALLY ADORABLE.

◆End of Chapter 13◆



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by Makimura Satoru

Translated by : Quixoticpixel
Proof read by : Kysle
Cleaned by : LadychaosT
Typeset by : Bakeneko
QC by : Maris

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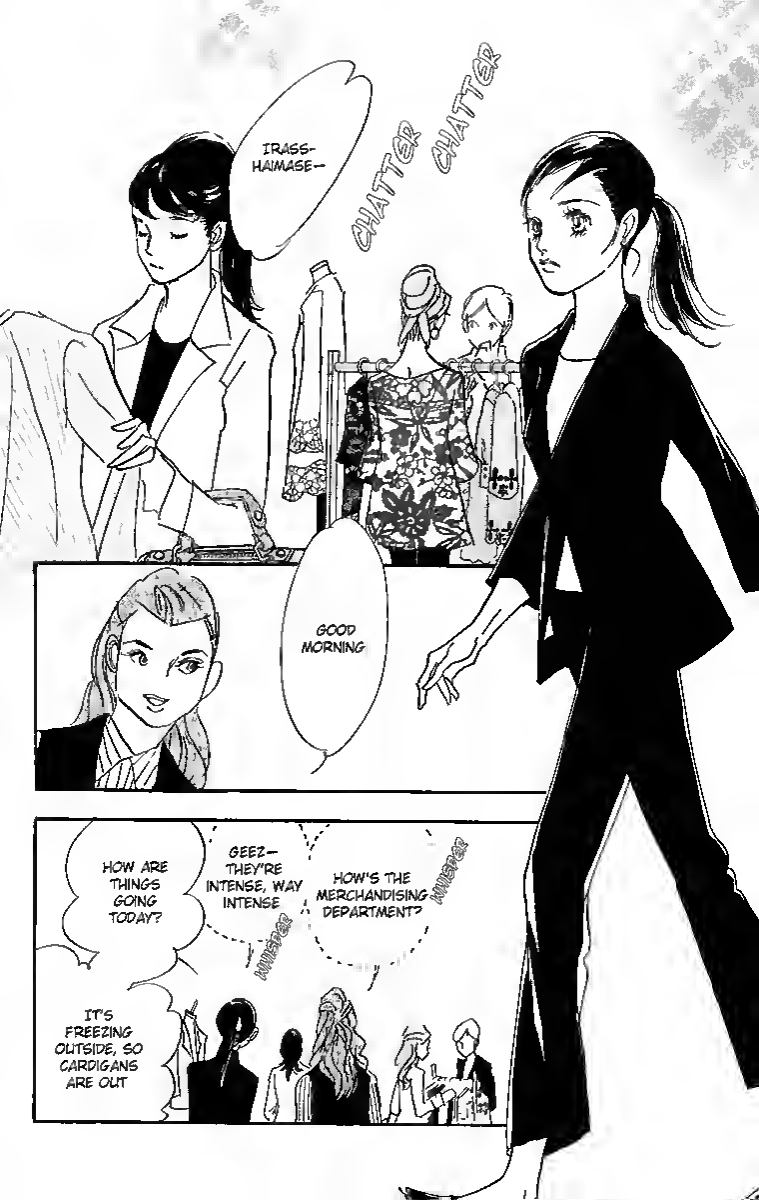
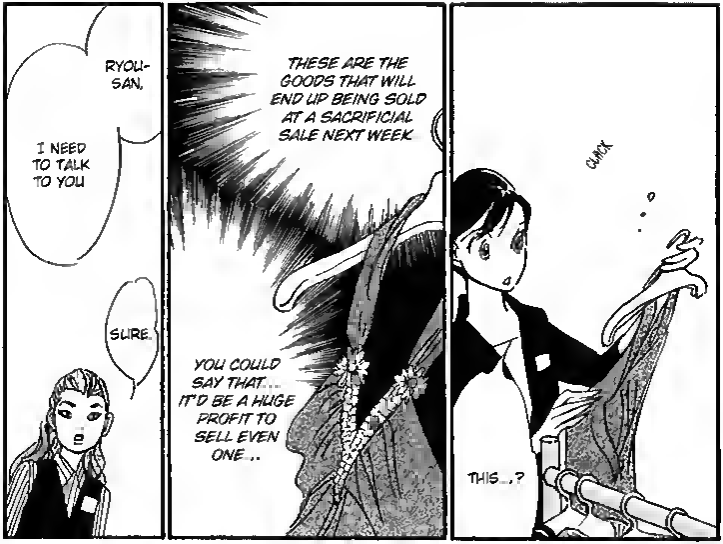
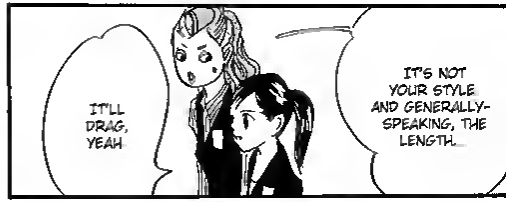
Real
Clothes
Chapter 14


IRASS-HAIMASE--
CHATTER CHATTER
GOOD MORNING
HOW ARE THINGS GOING TODAY?
GEEZ— THEY'RE INTENSE, WAY INTENSE
MUTTER MUTTER
HOW'S THE MERCHANDISING DEPARTMENT?
MUTTER MUTTER
IT'S FREEZING OUTSIDE, SO CARDIGANS ARE OUT


RYOU-SAN,
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU
SURE.
THESE ARE THE GOODS THAT WILL END UP BEING SOLD AT A SACRIFICIAL SALE NEXT WEEK.
YOU COULD SAY THAT... IT'D BE A HUGE PROFIT TO SELL EVEN ONE..
GUICK
THIS..?

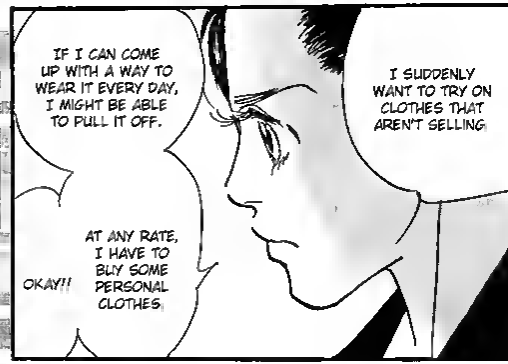
AH— THIS ONE—
IT'S SO FRUSTRATING THAT WE HAVEN'T EVEN SOLD ONE.
AHAHAHA
COULD I HAVE THESE PUT OUT ON THE MANNEQUINS AT THE FRONT OF THE STORE?
MAKE IT FEEL LIKE "IT'S AWESOME,"
"IT'S COOL," "I WANT TO MIX AND MATCH WITH IT," "THINGS ARE GOING TO START HAPPENING!"

AS AN OUTFIT, IT'S PRETTY MUCH COMPLETE. THE QUALITY IS GOOD, TOO. IT'S OKAY FOR ANY PARTY.
BUT, IT'S TOO FOREIGN?
LET'S GO WITH THIS! HERE— CELEBRITY-STYLE.
HM! IT LOOKS PRETTY WHEN WORN THAT WAY!

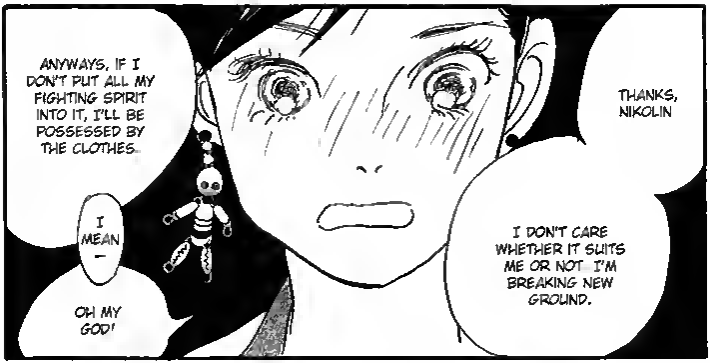


WHOOSH—!

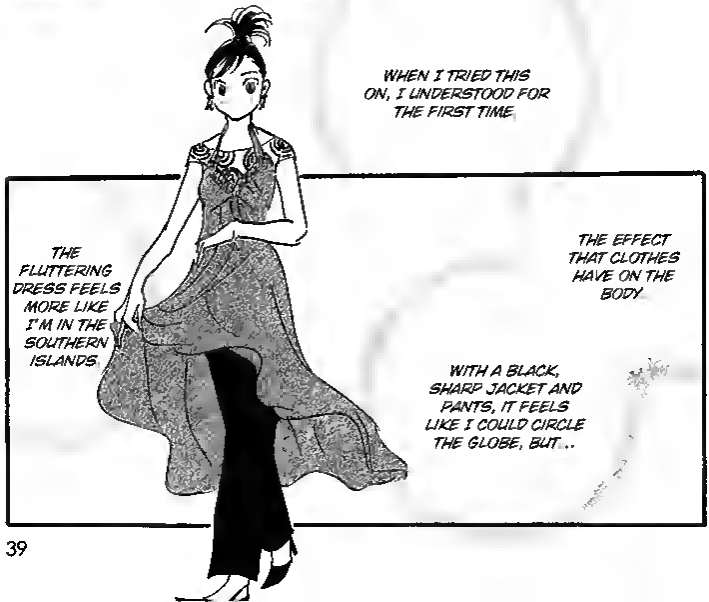
Merchandising Department


I SUDDENLY WANT TO TRY ON CLOTHES THAT AREN'T SELLING.
IF I CAN COME UP WITH A WAY TO WEAR IT EVERY DAY, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF.
AT ANY RATE, I HAVE TO BUY SOME PERSONAL CLOTHES.
OKAY!!

I'M BACK NOW.
TA-DAH—
THE SPARKLE
WHOSE RECITAL ARE YOU GOING TO?
HIC
THAT'S SO CUTE.
I THOUGHT A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS HAD EMERGED FROM THE JUNGLE!


ANYWAYS, IF I DON'T PUT ALL MY FIGHTING SPIRIT INTO IT, I'LL BE POSSESSED BY THE CLOTHES.
I MEAN —
OH MY GOD!
I DON'T CARE WHETHER IT SUITS ME OR NOT. I'M BREAKING NEW GROUND.
THANKS, NIKOLIN

Oh my God!


WHEN I TRIED THIS ON, I UNDERSTOOD FOR THE FIRST TIME
THE EFFECT THAT CLOTHES HAVE ON THE BODY
THE FLUTTERING DRESS FEELS MORE LIKE I'M IN THE SOUTHERN ISLANDS.
WITH A BLACK, SHARP JACKET AND PANTS, IT FEELS LIKE I COULD CIRCLE THE GLOBE, BUT..

ISN'T WEARING CLOTHES THE SAME AS BREATHING FOR GIRLS?
FROM A GUY'S VIEW, YOU'RE REALLY CUTE. AND IF HE'S REALLY INTERESTED, HE WON'T TAKE HIS EYES OFF YOU.
REALLY?
GUYS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING AT GIRLS.
AND GIRLS ARE ALSO LOOKING AT GIRLS
Look
SURPRISE
THAT DRESS IS SUPER GREAT!
YOU BOUGHT IT ON THE 3RD FLOOR EARLIER, RIGHT?
YOU AGONIZED OVER IT, BUT BUYING IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. YOU CAN WEAR IT WITH ANYTHING.
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHER GIRLS. I KNEW YOU'D BE AWESOME!

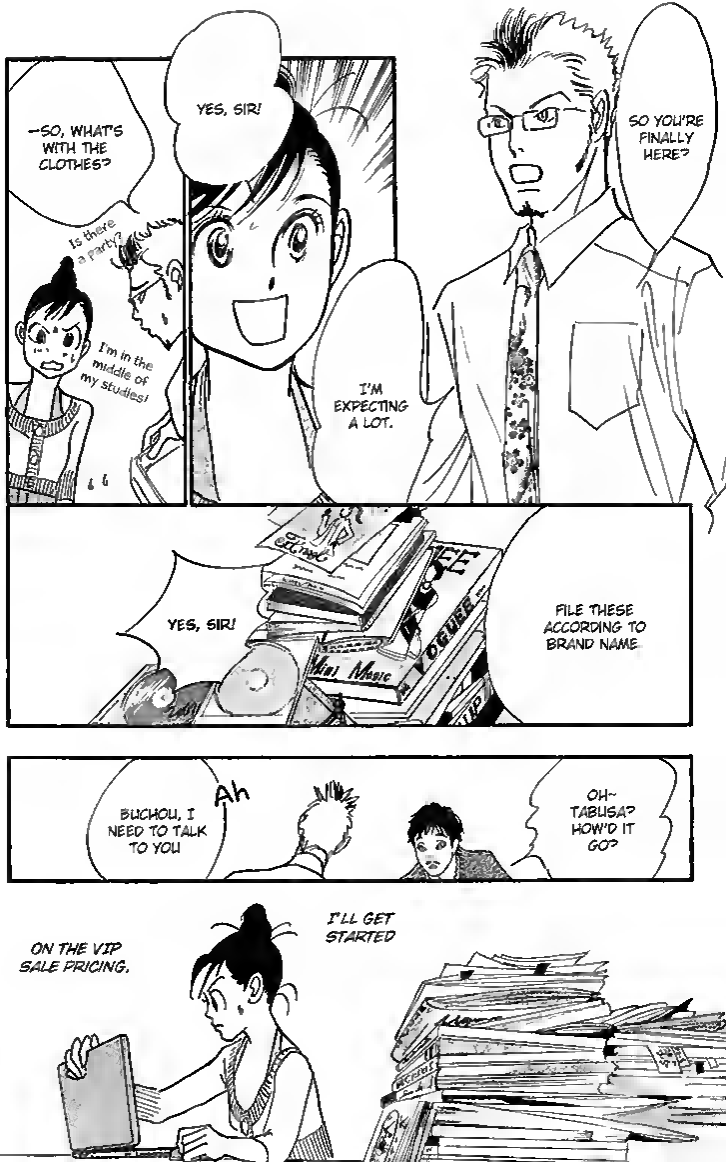
Real Clothes 3

GO TO THE 3RD FLOOR, SEE THIS, TRY IT ON, AND BUY IT.
PLEASE,
SCREAMING IN HER HEART
PLEASE BUY IT —!
WHY?
I WAS SELF-CONSCIOUS OF DRESSING UP— IT WAS TOO EMBARRASSING
—I GUESS
UNTIL NOW,
I
HAVE BEEN BUYING CLOTHES WITH THE CRITERIA THAT THEY DON'T STAND OUT FOR SECURITY YOU KNOW

YES?
Ring
IT'S HAYASHI.
HEY.
WE SOLD ONE! AND SOMEONE IS TRYING ON ANOTHER ONE RIGHT NOW
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THESE CLOTHES TOTALLY DON'T SUIT ME, THEY'RE
AWFUL~
BUT I'M WEARING THEM!
THAT'S VERY HUMBLE OF YOU.
You did it
SERIOUSLY !?
INTERES

KA-THUNK KA-THUNK
WHOOOSH—!
MORNING!
AH—! TABUSA-SAN, WELCOME BACK!

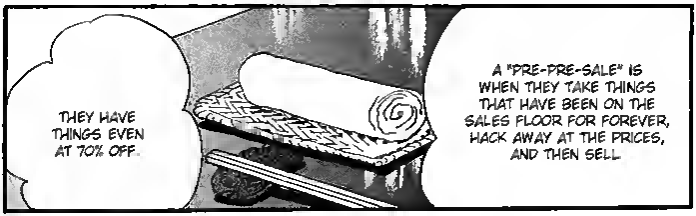
GOOD WORK, EVERYONE.
IT'S NOT WORK!
HERE— A SOUVENIR!
Thank you!
MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT HOW THAT THING WENT, SOMETIME TODAY.
WOULD TWO O'CLOCK BE OKAY?
HEY!
THINGS ARE CLEARLY WORKING OUT.
TAKA-CHAN, GET A DINNER RESERVATION AND APPOINTMENT WITH THIS PERSON FROM TEGA TRADING.
REGARDING THE "SICILIAN."
YES, SIR!
WELCOME BACK! THERE'S A MEETING AT TWO O'CLOCK.
I'M AMANO. YOROSHIKU!
GOOD MORNING! I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED AS YOUR ASSISTANT.
.....


SO YOU'RE FINALLY HERE?
YES, SIR!
I'M EXPECTING A LOT.
—SO, WHAT'S WITH THE CLOTHES?
Is there a party?
I'm in the middle of my studies!
FILE THESE ACCORDING TO BRAND NAME
YES, SIR!
Mini Music
OH~ TABUSA? HOW'D IT GO?
Ah
BUCHOU, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU
I'LL GET STARTED
ON THE VIP SALE PRICING.

THIS THING IS BEGGING FOR ME TO SELL IT.
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE LADIES' SPECIAL SELECTION'S VIP SALE.
I WANT TO TRY IT.
THE SALES FLOOR WILL BE A MESS, THOUGH, YOU KNOW?
I'LL GO SELL IT!
EVERY-THING WORKS OUT TO BE EXPE-RIENCE
SURE
I WANT TO LIVE UP TO TABUSA-SAN'S EXPECTATIONS!
I'VE A LOT TO DO.
HUH?
CAN I GO AND SELL THEM MYSELF?
THESE THINGS PRICED AT 70% OFF—
NIKOLIN-SAN
THERE'S NO NEED TO DROP THEM TO 30%.
WE CAN STILL SELL THESE
70% OFF

List of Entries
YOU SEE!

DO YOU KNOW WHO THOSE "CUSTOMERS" ARE? PEOPLE WHO SPEND MORE THAN 500,000 YEN AT ECHIZENYA IN A YEAR
THE SALE IS A PRE-PRE-SUMMER SALE AIMED AT OUR MOST EXTRAVAGANT REGULAR CUSTOMERS


THEY HAVE THINGS EVEN AT 70% OFF.
A "PRE-PRE-SALE" IS WHEN THEY TAKE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN ON THE SALES FLOOR FOR FOREVER, HACK AWAY AT THE PRICES, AND THEN SELL

AND WHEN IT GETS HOT, THE AIR CONDITIONING CAN BE BRUTAL IN SOME PLACES. YOU NEED LONG SLEEVES
GIRLS GET COLD ON RAINY DAYS.
BUT I THINK THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE CAN STILL SELL WITHOUT LOWERING THE PRICES. LIKE THE CARDIGANS

THE LATEST EUROPEAN TREND THAT TABUSA-SAN CAME BACK WITH IS AMAZING, BUT
I LIKE THE CURRENT SCENE I'LL WORK WITH MY FEMININE SENSE!
Ah!
WELL
DO YOUR BEST
RIGHT?
Yes!
JUST WATCH, TABUSA
I WILL ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY SHOW THAT I CAN SELL IT.

(T/N 30 degrees Celcius equivalent to 86 degrees Fahrenheit.)

AT THIS RATE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SELL EVEN ONE!!
INK
WOULD YOU HAVE ANY FORMAL COATS?
OH! THERE IS THIS, AND...
MY, HOW LOVELY.
BUT SOMETHING COOLER AND MORE SHEER WOULD BE BETTER. DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S BLAZING HOT OUTSIDE TODAY?

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS "DECISION." TELL ME.
I'M SO SORRY. IT WAS MY SELFISH DECISION.
WHY THE HELL ARE THERE SO MANY LEFT OVER!
I SAID TO PUT THEM AT 70% OFF!
HUH
CHIEFLY THE WEATHER— AND MY WOMEN'S INTUITION...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK AT THE WEATHER, LOOK GLOBALLY.
IT DOESN'T WORK OUT IF A BUYER WORKS WITH THE SAME "INTUITION" AS A CUSTOMER— WE'LL ALWAYS BE A STEP BEHIND THEM.
WE'LL BE HAVING ABNORMAL WEATHER ALL YEAR DUE TO LA NIÑA! THERE'LL BE DROUGHTS ALL OVER THE PLACE.

IF WE'D JUST SLASHED THE PRICE, WE MIGHT HAVE SOLD THEM. SO WHAT NOW? THIS IS SUCH A LOSS! YOU KNOW WE CAN'T SELL THEM ANY LONGER, RIGHT?
IT WASN'T WOMEN'S INTUITION BUT... MY OWN.
THAT'S ABOUT A MILLION YEN? ALTHOUGH IT'LL BE MY RESPONSIBILITY.
THEY DON'T LOOK AT THE END RESULT OF THE WHOLE THING. THEY'RE TOO SHORT-SIGHTED.
WHAT MAKES WOMEN USELESS IS WHEN THEY ACT BASED ON WHETHER THEY LIKE SOMETHING OR HATE IT!
HM?
.....
CLACK!
open..

End of Chapter 14

Real Clothes

by Hakimura Satoru

Translated by : Quixoticpixel
ProofRead by : Kysle
Cleaned by : Amesae
Typeset by : rxwang
QC by : Maris

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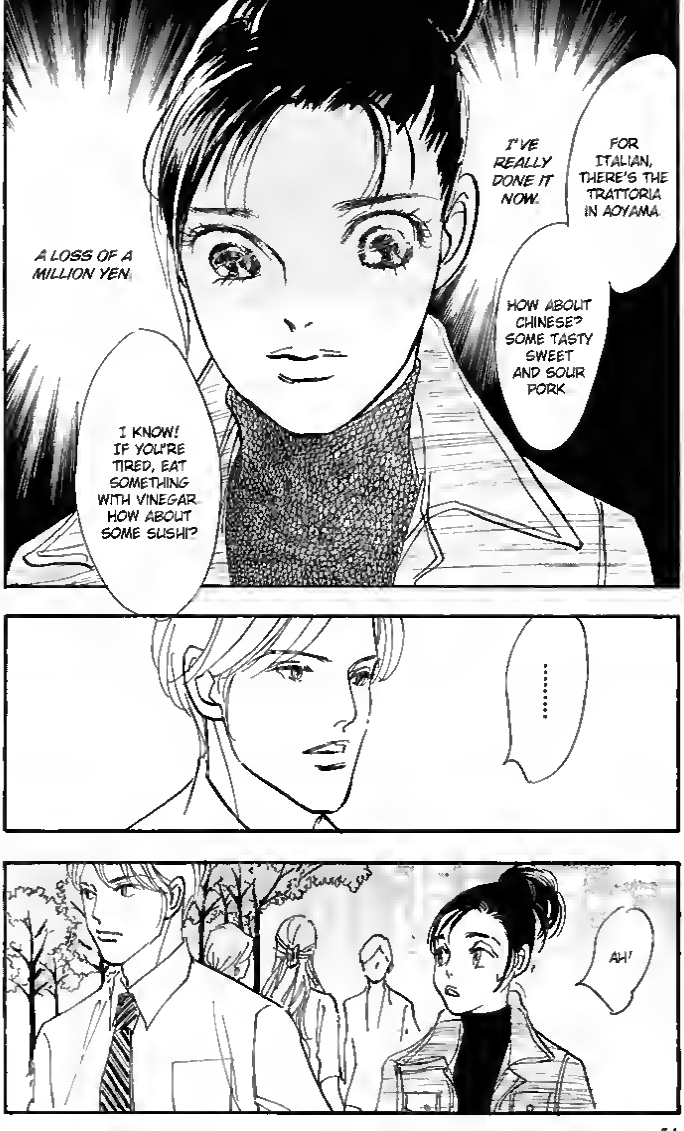
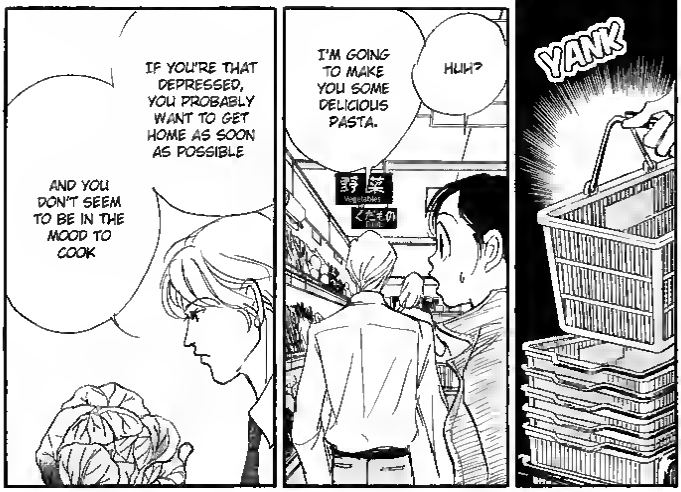
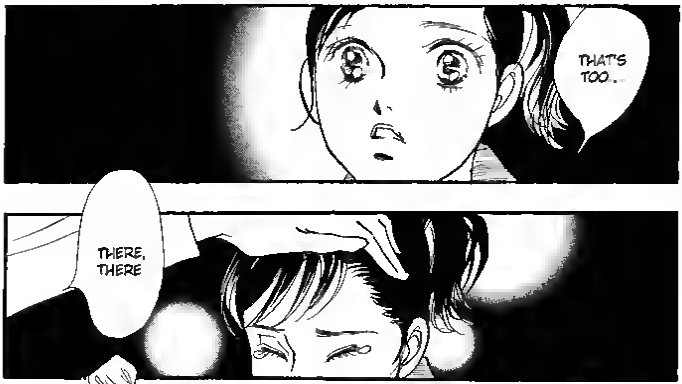
Real Clothes

Chapter 15


A LOSS OF A MILLION YEN.
I KNOW! IF YOU'RE TIRED, EAT SOMETHING WITH VINEGAR. HOW ABOUT SOME SUSHI?
HOW ABOUT CHINESE? SOME TASTY SWEET AND SOUR PORK.
I'VE REALLY DONE IT NOW.
FOR ITALIAN, THERE'S THE TRATTORIA IN AOYAMA.
.....
AH!

Real Clothes 3

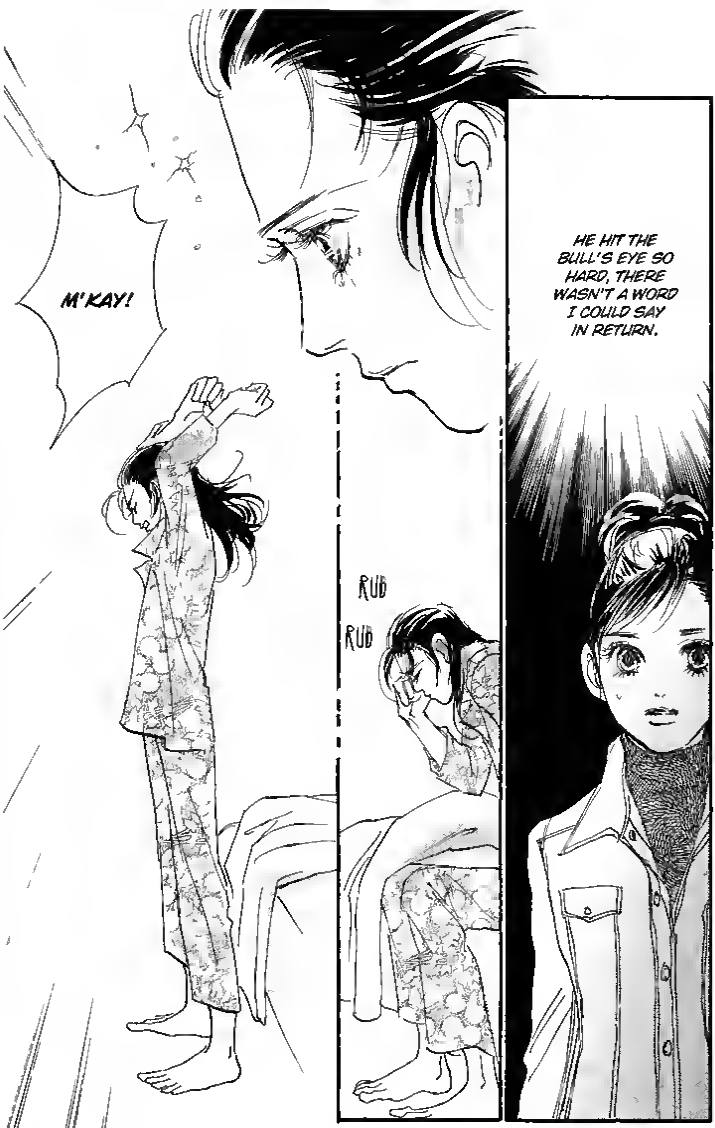

IF YOU'RE THAT DEPRESSED, YOU PROBABLY WANT TO GET HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AND YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE IN THE MOOD TO COOK
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SOME DELICIOUS PASTA.
HUH?
野菜
YANK



HOW ABOUT SOME VONGOLE!
YUM~!
THANK YOU
YOU FINALLY CRACKED A SMILE
I'M FEELING A BIT BETTER
HE'S INDULGING ME.
TEE-HEE
YOU KNOW, YOUR SMILE IS ONE OF YOUR BEST FEATURES

BOUNCING BACK TAKES TIME.
THINK ABOUT HOW THINGS WENT WRONG AND TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.
MEANWHILE, IT'LL BE A YEAR UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND THE JOB IN ITS ENTIRETY.
GETTING DEPRESSED WON'T HELP ANYTHING.
I'VE BEEN DRAGGING MY FEET...
UNTIL NOW,
YEAH.

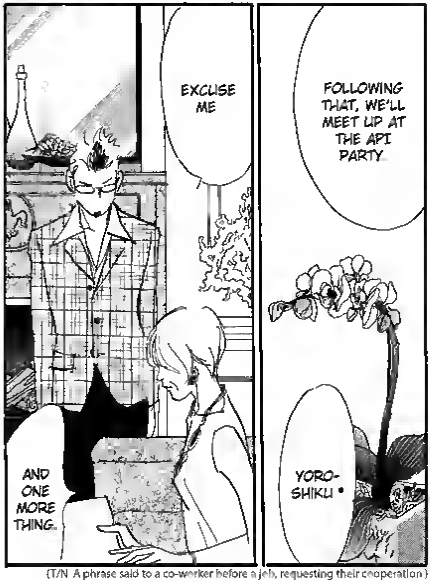
WHAT MAKES WOMEN USELESS IS WHEN THEY ACT BASED ON WHETHER THEY LIKE SOMETHING OR HATE IT!
You're in the way.
I'M BEING TREATED SO KINDLY, AND YET THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING
Hug


M'KAY!
RUB
RUB
HE HIT THE BULL'S EYE SO HARD, THERE WASN'T A WORD I COULD SAY IN RETURN.

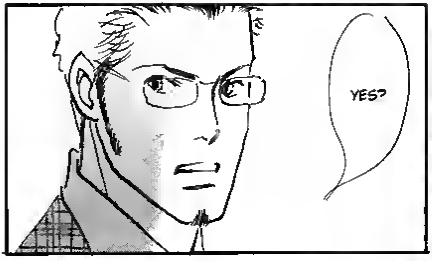
WHO—OSH
SHIGE, I'M GOING TO SHORTEN THE DOUBLE NAME WITH POODLE SOMETIME TODAY
TARO-CHAN, WE'RE GONNA WIN TODAY'S ORDERING MEETING.
RIYO-CHAN, I'M GOING TO THE MAX EXHIBITION AS WELL!
ROGER!
FINE~.
STARE!
PMS?
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU SICK!?

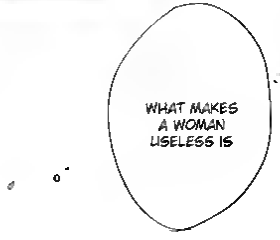
BAM!
?
URGH !?
SHAKE!
SHIT!
!?
.....

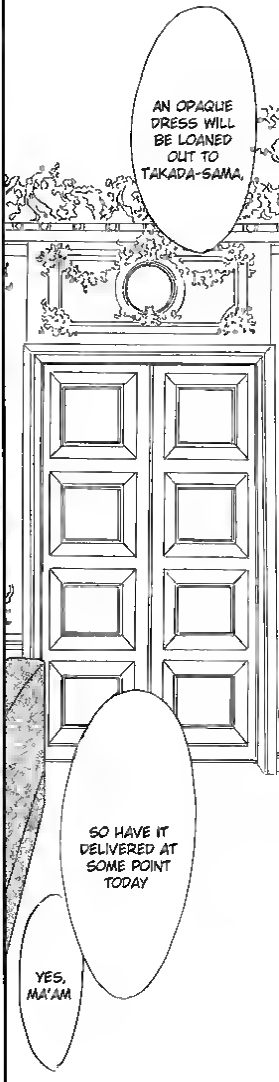
Real Clothes 3



(T/N: A phrase said to a co-worker before a job, requesting their cooperation.)



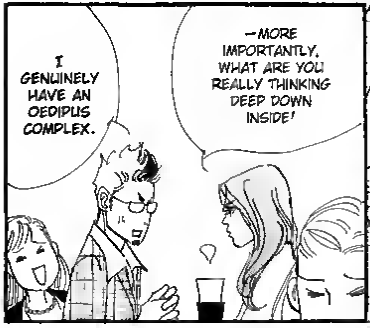


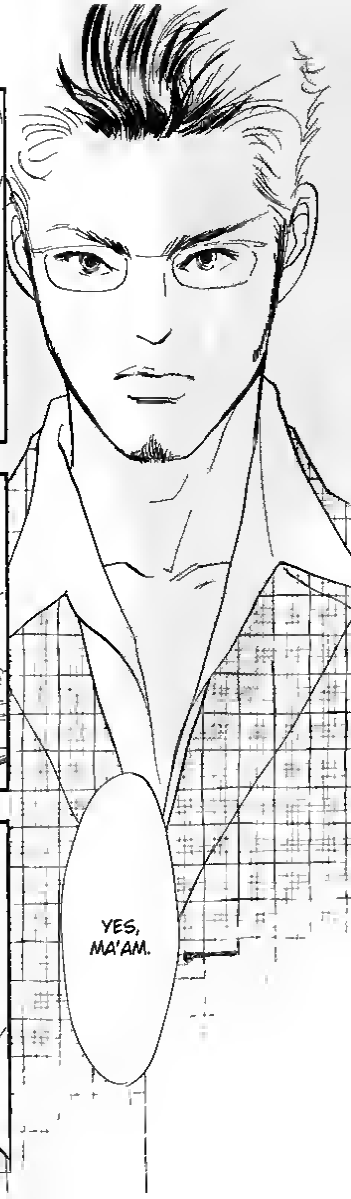


ACTING ON WHETHER SHE LIKES SOMETHING OR HATES IT WITHOUT OBJECTIVITY, LOSING SIGHT OF HER GOALS, AND PANICKING AT THE TINIEST THINGS.
GU
LP
BE AWARE THAT OUR JOB REVOLVES AROUND BEING ABLE TO SUPPORT THAT TYPE OF WOMAN
DON'T FORGET TO BE GRATEFUL

Real Clothes 3

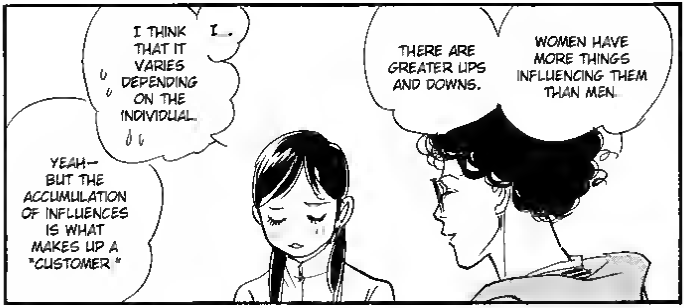
I'M SORRY. HERE'S A SOUVENIR FROM PARIS. SHARE IT WITH EVERYONE, OKAY?
YOU'RE SO UPFRONT, HUH! IS IT CANDY?
I WON'T SAY SUCH A RUDE THING EVER AGAIN
bow!

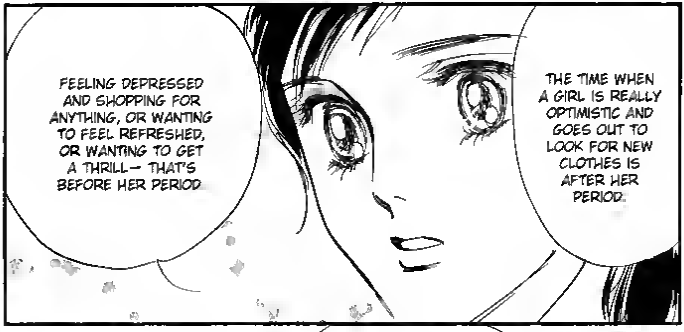




PFFT!
depressed
I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL..
I'M SORRY... THIS IS HAVING A HUGE RIPPLE EFFECT...
IS THE JOB OF A NEWBIE
YOU'RE BOUND TO MAKE MISTAKES. BUT NEVER GIVING UP...
THE INSTINCT FOR MANAGING INVENTORY IS LIKE THE INSTINCT FOR BUYING
YOU'RE BOUND TO MAKE—
IT'S KNOWING WHICH WAY THE WIND IS BLOWING AND EXPLORING THE CAUSE OF IT...
MISTAKES
WHAT IS A WOMAN'S INTUITION AFFECTED BY?

OH
BY HER PERIOD...


I...
I THINK THAT IT VARIES DEPENDING ON THE INDIVIDUAL.
YEAH— BUT THE ACCUMULATION OF INFLUENCES IS WHAT MAKES UP A "CUSTOMER."
THERE ARE GREATER UPS AND DOWNS.
WOMEN HAVE MORE THINGS INFLUENCING THEM THAN MEN.


FEELING DEPRESSED AND SHOPPING FOR ANYTHING, OR WANTING TO FEEL REFRESHED, OR WANTING TO GET A THRILL— THAT'S BEFORE HER PERIOD.
THE TIME WHEN A GIRL IS REALLY OPTIMISTIC AND GOES OUT TO LOOK FOR NEW CLOTHES IS AFTER HER PERIOD.

A WOMAN'S MENSTRUATION AND SHOPPING ARE INTRICATELY CONNECTED.
It's all good.
A HA HA HA

WOMEN ARE A PART OF NATURE
TO ME, THEY'RE A THREAT.
THOSE HAVE HUGE EFFECTS ON A WOMAN'S BODY, RIGHT?
AND THEN THERE'S THE ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE AND THE WEATHER, TOO
12
WHEN THE ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE RISES, OUR SALES GO UP.
SERIOUSLY!?

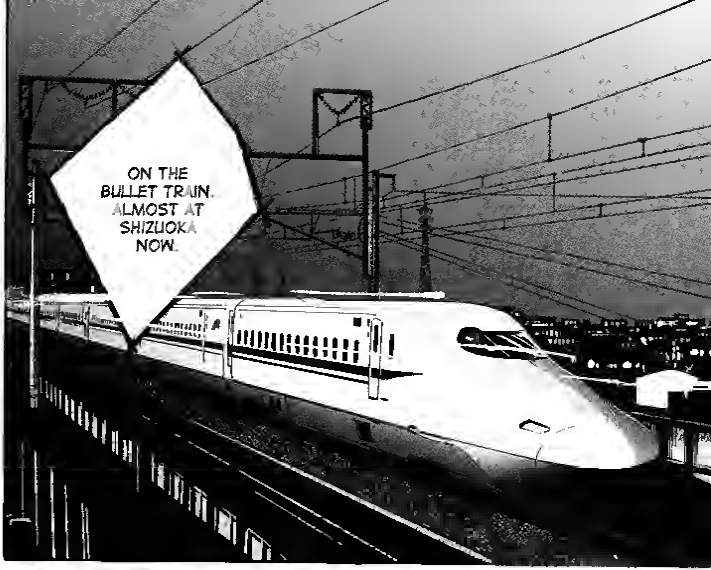
IF YOU THINK SO,
THEN YOU DON'T KNOW YOURSELF YET.
HOW.. WE'RE NOT SCARY, YOU KNOW
RE-
REALLY?

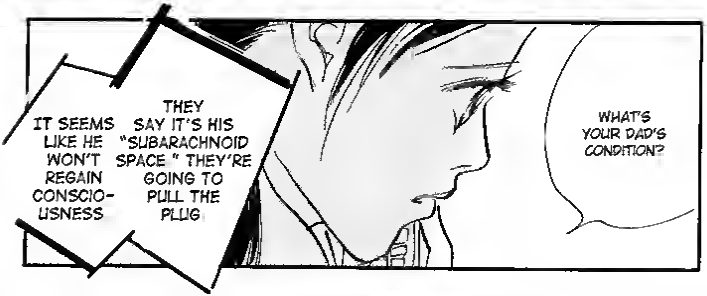
MAYBE BECAUSE OF HIS CHARACTER?
POPULAR
I END UP TALKING ABOUT THINGS EVEN TATSUYA DOESN'T KNOW WITHOUT THINKING.
TALKING WITH NICHOLA IS SO MUCH FUN, I COULD END UP SPENDING HOURS WITH HIM.

COME ON!
LET'S MAKE THE DOCUMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK'S PRESENTATION!
AND THEN TOMORROW, WE'LL COME INTO WORK LATE!
OKAY!
I'M GOING HOME NOW
OTSUKARE!*
OH!
I'LL GO TAKE ORDERS FOR THE OVERTIME MEALS
THANKS!
DRRR-
DRIING-

(T/N Good work!)

Watch the stove!
火の用心!
HI, IT'S KINUE IS THIS A GOOD TIME? I GOT YOUR MESSAGE. IT SURPRISED ME
YEAH.
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
.....
YUP!


ON THE BULLET TRAIN. ALMOST AT SHIZUOKA NOW.


WHAT'S YOUR DAD'S CONDITION?
THEY SAY IT'S HIS "SUBARACHNOID SPACE." THEY'RE GOING TO PULL THE PLUG
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WON'T REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS

I'M PREPARING FOR IT.
KINUE
YEAH?

◆ End of Chapter 15 ◆

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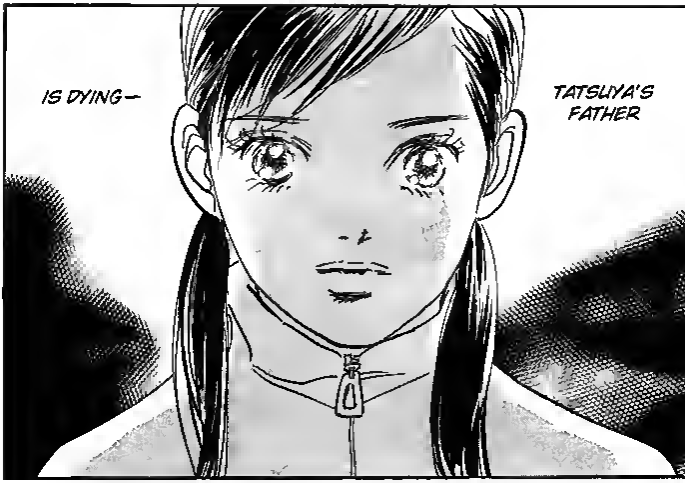
Real Clothes

by Wakamura Satoru

Real Clothes

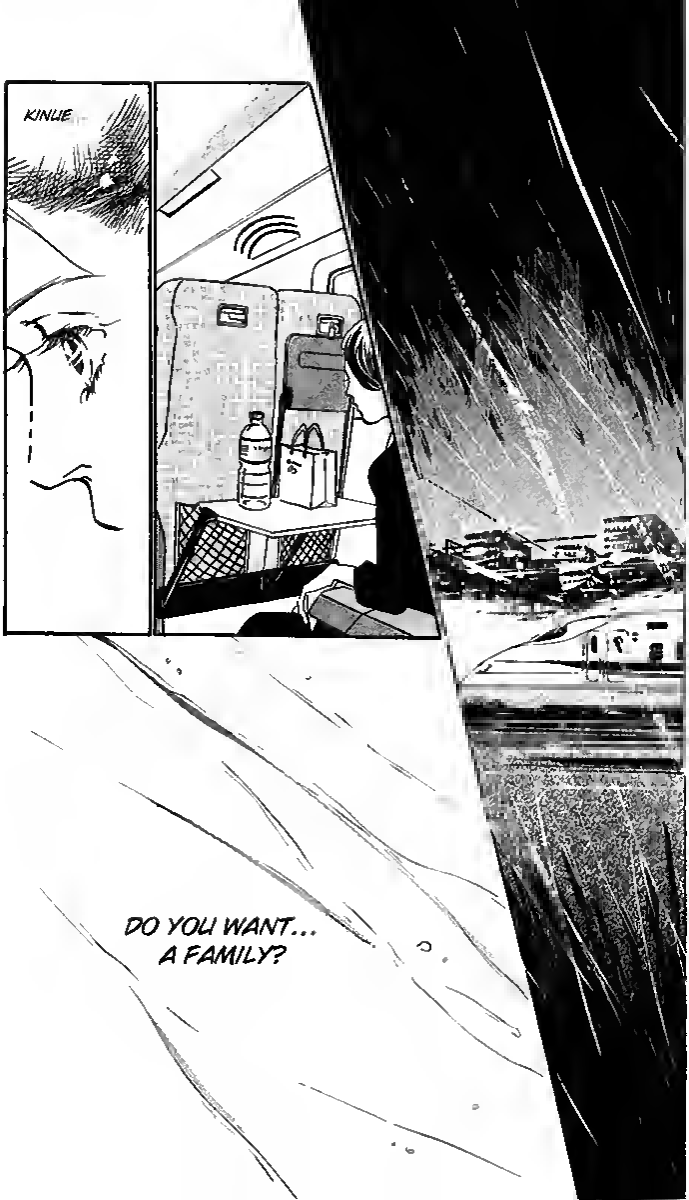
Chapter 16

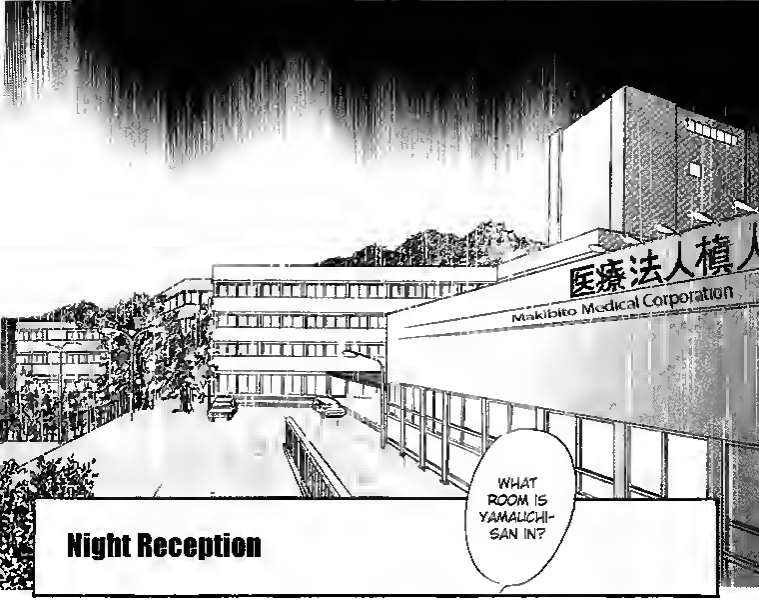

IS DYING—
TATSUYA'S FATHER

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOUR FACE LOOKS PALE
WOAH, WOAH!
I'M SO SORRY, THAT'S MY JOB!
AMANO-SAN, I'M ORDERING DELIVERY FROM SHINANOYA,
OH!
SO WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
Ten-don 4
Ken-chin 3
Ten-zaru 2
Hiyashi

AN UNCLE I'M REALLY CLOSE TO HAS COLLAPSED... IF IT'S POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO HURRY OVER THERE.
ACTUALLY...
I UNDER-STAND
I'LL DO THE OVERTIME WORK BY MYSELF.
BUT I'LL LEAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DO TOMORROW.
bow
THANKS FOR BEING SO SWEET.
GASP!
CLACK
CLACK
adies Division
Girls' Locker
CLACK
I'M GOING HOME NOW.
Otsukare~

(T/N The little dangling thing is called a "teruterubozu." It is a charm to ward off rain.)


KINUE
DO YOU WANT...
A FAMILY?

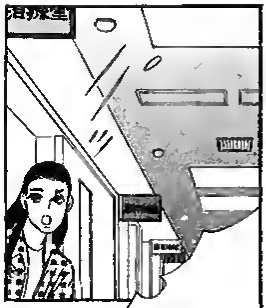


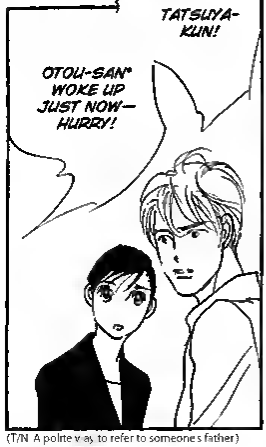
Night Reception

AH, THE EMERGENCY
GO TO THE LEFT. IT'S THE ONE ON THE RIGHT AT THE END OF THE HALL.
THANKS.
CLACK
THEN MOVE HIM TO A BIGGER PLACE!
AT THE VERY LEAST, IF HE WERE AT A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN THE CITY, THERE WOULD BE MORE SPECIALISTS!
JUMP!

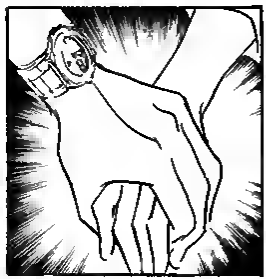
TATSUYA!
WE CAN'T MOVE HIM AT THIS POINT IN TIME
THEY SAID THAT THE FIGHT FOR THE SUB-ARACHNOID SPACE CAN TAKE HOURS.
WHAT ARE YOU DRAGGING YOUR FEET FOR...
CALM DOWN, TATSUYA
THIS IS THE FAMILY'S DECISION DAD'S USUAL DOCTOR IS HERE.
USUAL DOCTOR? WAS SOMETHING THE MATTER BEFORE?
THEY FOUND CANCER IN HIS LIVER

DON'T GET WORKED UP ABOUT IT HERE!
NO ONE IS BLAMING YOU OR ANYTHING.
AREN'T I...
A PART OF THIS FAMILY...
SLUMP...
TATSUYA...
I'M HERE.





(T/N: A polite way to refer to someone's father)

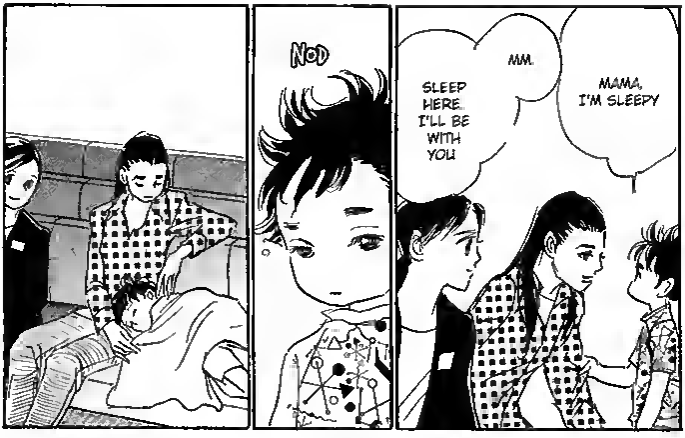


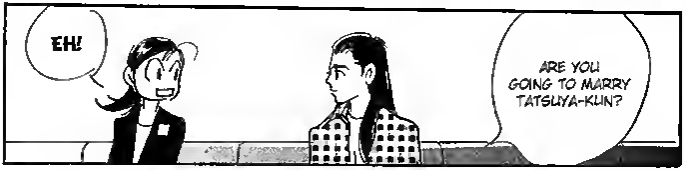
THEY OPERATED ON YOUR HEAD!
EH!
WE'RE HERE... KYOUKO-SAN AND MOMO-CHAN, TOO.
GRAND PA!
SHIT, YOU GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK!
DAD! HANG IN THERE!
TATSUYA.

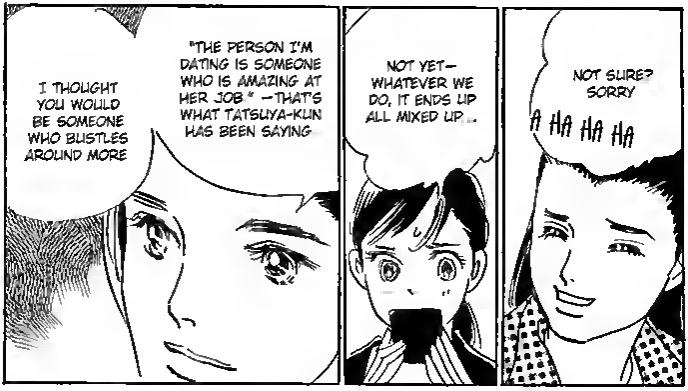
(T/N: A friendly, humorous, yet fitting way for an older brother.)
TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOTHER.
SHE'S STRONG-WILLED ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY A PUSHOVER...
ANIKI* WAS MAKING IT INTO A BIG DEAL.
WHAT? YOU CAME FROM TOKYO...
AMANO-SAN.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...!
UH—
YES?
HUH?

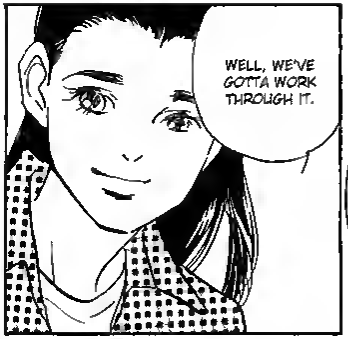
AMANO KINUE-SAN YOU'VE BEEN DATING SINCE UNIVERSITY.
Amano
AH!!
I'M WORKING AT A DEPARTMENT STORE.
YOUR NAME TAG...
UNCLE HONMA IS HERE!
YOSHIO!
TATSUYA IS SO SPOILED

YOU CAN'T HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE IN HERE.
NON-FAMILY MEMBERS, PLEASE GO OUTSIDE!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK? I JUST FILLED THIS WITH COFFEE. WANT SOME?
I'M TATSUYA-KUN'S SISTER-IN-LAW, KYOUKO.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

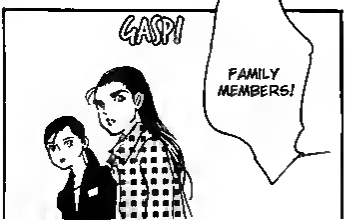

MAMA, I'M SLEEPY
MM.
SLEEP HERE. I'LL BE WITH YOU
NOD

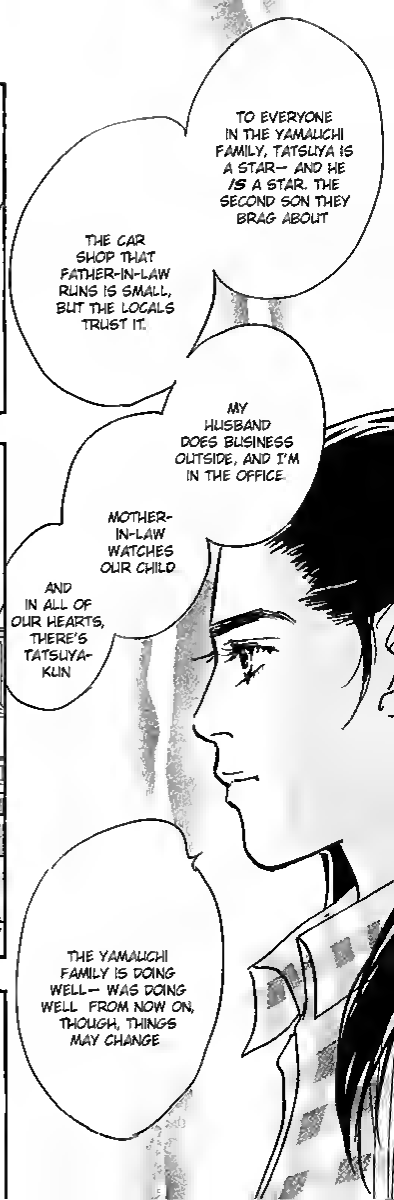

ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY TATSUYA-KUN?
EH!

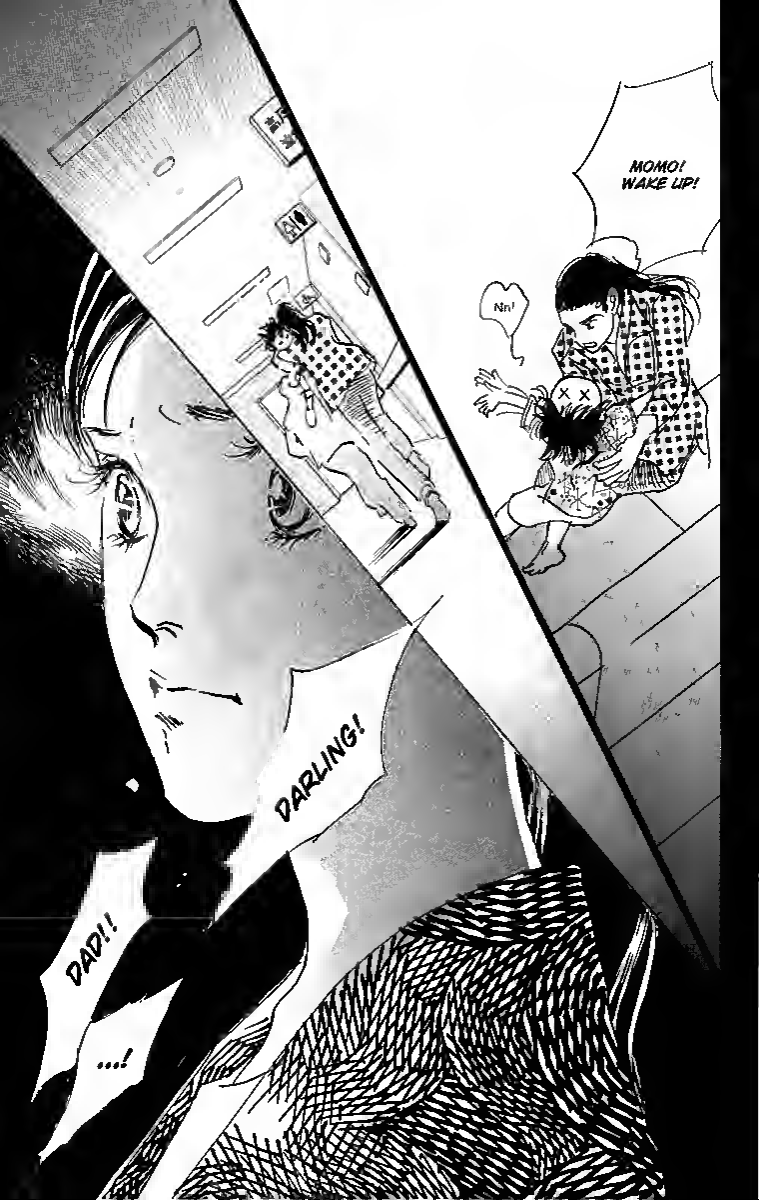

NOT SURE? SORRY
A HA HA HA
NOT YET— WHATEVER WE DO, IT ENDS UP ALL MIXED UP...
"THE PERSON I'M DATING IS SOMEONE WHO IS AMAZING AT HER JOB." —THAT'S WHAT TATSUYA-KUN HAS BEEN SAYING
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE SOMEONE WHO BUSTLES AROUND MORE


WELL, WE'VE GOTTA WORK THROUGH IT.

YOU SHOULDN'T LET GO OF YOUR JOB.
THERE AREN'T A LOT OF JOBS YOU'D WANT TO DO IN THE COUNTRY.


GASP!
FAMILY MEMBERS!


TO EVERYONE IN THE YAMAUCHI FAMILY, TATSUYA IS A STAR— AND HE IS A STAR. THE SECOND SON THEY BRAG ABOUT
THE CAR SHOP THAT FATHER-IN-LAW RUNS IS SMALL, BUT THE LOCALS TRUST IT.
MY HUSBAND DOES BUSINESS OUTSIDE, AND I'M IN THE OFFICE.
MOTHER-IN-LAW WATCHES OUR CHILD
AND IN ALL OF OUR HEARTS, THERE'S TATSUYA-KUN
THE YAMAUCHI FAMILY IS DOING WELL— WAS DOING WELL. FROM NOW ON, THOUGH, THINGS MAY CHANGE


MOMO! WAKE UP!
Nn!
DARLING!
DAD!!
...!

I WANT TO BE CLOSE BY.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
YOU HAVE WORK. GO BACK. I'LL MESSAGE YOU WHEN THE FUNERAL IS DECIDED.
Oh!
FAMILY IS,... BONDS THAT ARE A MIXTURE OF AFFECTION AND ITS OPPOSITE—
7D-E

YOU SHOULDN'T LET GO OF YOUR JOB.
THERE AREN'T A LOT OF JOBS YOU'D WANT TO DO IN THE COUNTRY.

I DON'T HAVE... FUNERAL ATTIRE...
AH!
OH?
GOOD MORNING!
ARE YOU THE COMPANY PRESIDENT? WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS!
GET TO WORK ALREADY! EARN BACK THAT ONE MILLION LOSS!
KO!

DOOOOM!
FAR FROM IT— IT'S ALL BEEN A MINUS—
BUT I HAVEN'T DONE ANY WORK AT ALL.
THIS IS THE NUMBER ONE PLACE IN JAPAN I WANT TO WORK AT...
YOU,
AND ME. WE'LL WORK OUT WELL.
SHUT!

End of Chapter 16

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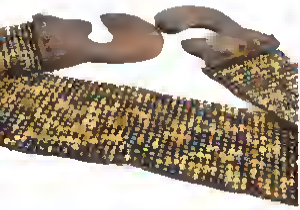
Real Clothes

by Makimura Satoru



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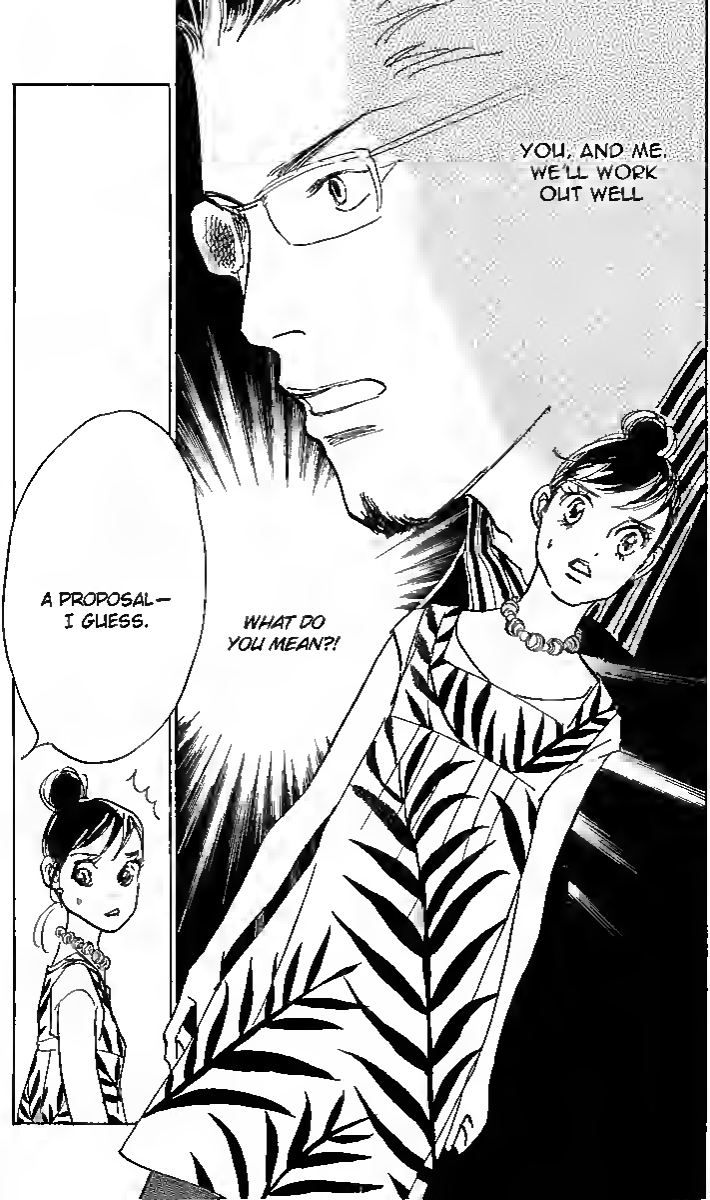
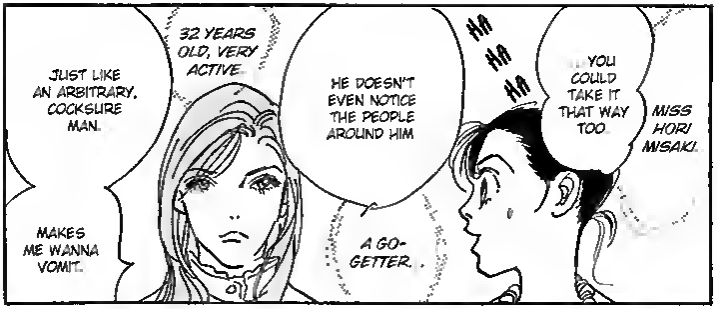
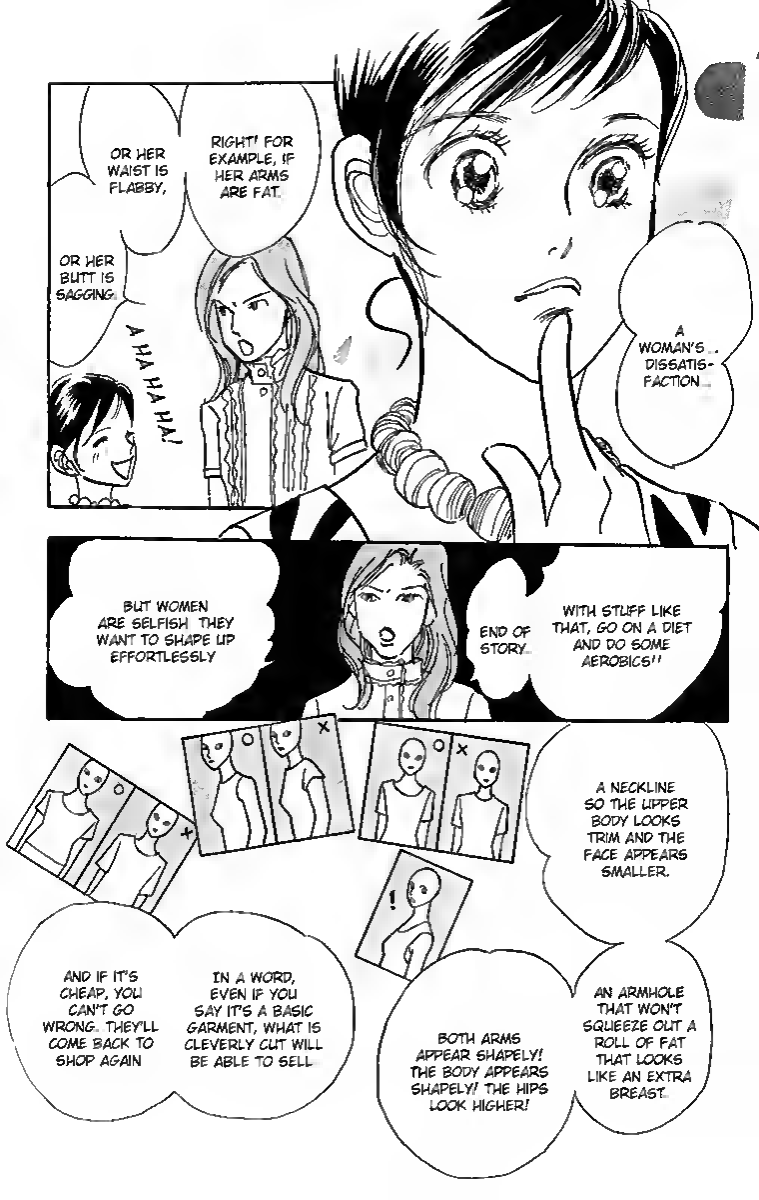
Real Clothes

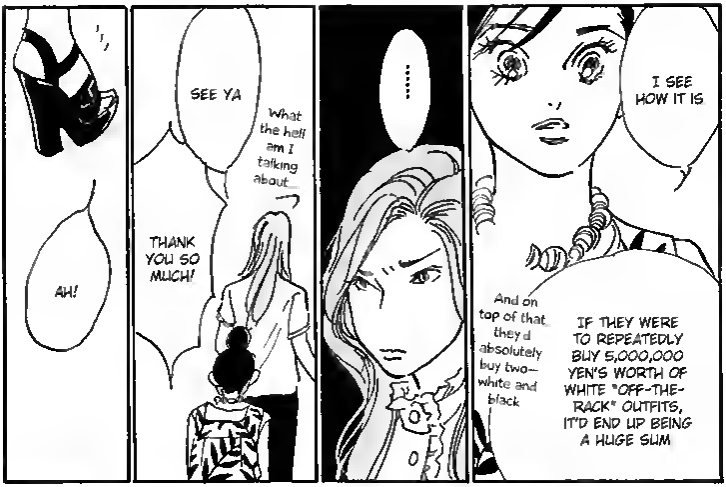
Chapter 17

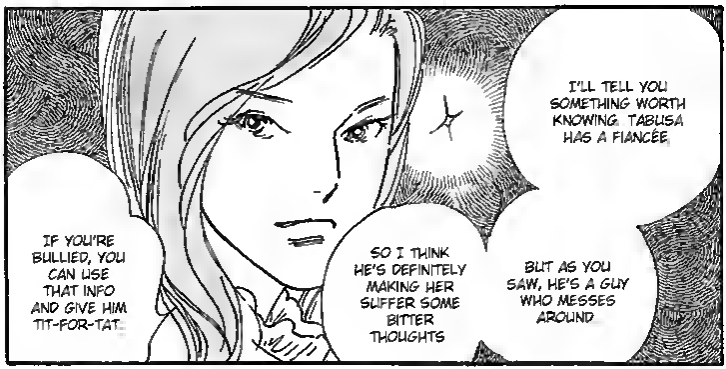

YOU, AND ME. WE'LL WORK OUT WELL
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
A PROPOSAL— I GUESS.

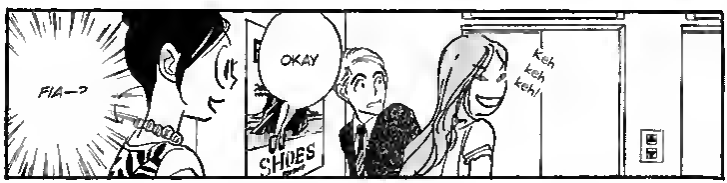

JUST LIKE AN ARBITRARY, COCKSURE MAN.
32 YEARS OLD, VERY ACTIVE.
HE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM.
HA HA HA
...YOU COULD TAKE IT THAT WAY TOO.
MISS HORI MISAKI.
MAKES ME WANNA VOMIT.
A GO-GETTER.

IF TABUSA HAS THE POWER TO SNIFF OUT A WOMAN'S DREAMS,
Oh my, you knew about that.
THEN I'M IN THE CLIQUE THAT CAN PINPOINT A WOMAN'S DISSATISFACTION.
HORI-S IN— I'VE HEARD YOU ARE THE NUMBER ONE AT STANDARD BUYING AND SALES.
IS THAT BECAUSE YOU WATCH WOMEN A LOT?
VOMIT...
HE'S GOTTA STUDY UP ON WOMEN MORE
THIS IS A JOB WHERE YOU WORK WITH WOMEN


A WOMAN'S DISSATISFACTION...
RIGHT! FOR EXAMPLE, IF HER ARMS ARE FAT.
OR HER WAIST IS FLABBY,
OR HER BUTT IS SAGGING.
A HA HA HA!
WITH STUFF LIKE THAT, GO ON A DIET AND DO SOME AEROBICS!!
END OF STORY...
BUT WOMEN ARE SELFISH THEY WANT TO SHAPE UP EFFORTLESSLY
A NECKLINE SO THE UPPER BODY LOOKS TRIM AND THE FACE APPEARS SMALLER.
AN ARMHOLE THAT WON'T SQUEEZE OUT A ROLL OF FAT THAT LOOKS LIKE AN EXTRA BREAST.
BOTH ARMS APPEAR SHAPELY! THE BODY APPEARS SHAPELY! THE HIPS LOOK HIGHER!
IN A WORD, EVEN IF YOU SAY IT'S A BASIC GARMENT, WHAT IS CLEVERLY CUT WILL BE ABLE TO SELL
AND IF IT'S CHEAP, YOU CAN'T GO WRONG. THEY'LL COME BACK TO SHOP AGAIN

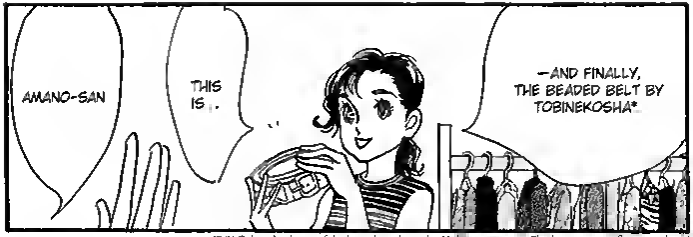

AH!
SEE YA
What the hell am I talking about...
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
.....
I SEE HOW IT IS
IF THEY WERE TO REPEATEDLY BUY 5,000,000 YEN'S WORTH OF WHITE "OFF-THE-RACK" OUTFITS, IT'D END UP BEING A HUGE SUM
And on top of that they'd absolutely buy two—white and black


I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING WORTH KNOWING. TABUSA HAS A FIANCÉE
BUT AS YOU SAW, HE'S A GUY WHO MESSES AROUND
SO I THINK HE'S DEFINITELY MAKING HER SUFFER SOME BITTER THOUGHTS
IF YOU'RE BULLIED, YOU CAN USE THAT INFO AND GIVE HIM TIT-FOR-TAT.

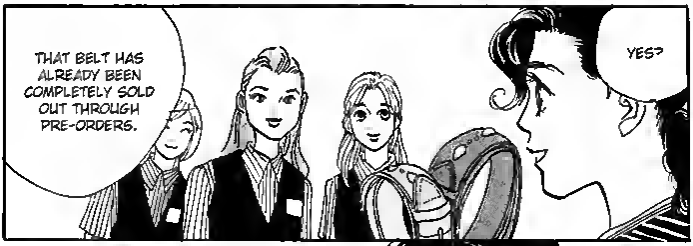

FIA—?
OKAY
SHOES
keh keh keh!

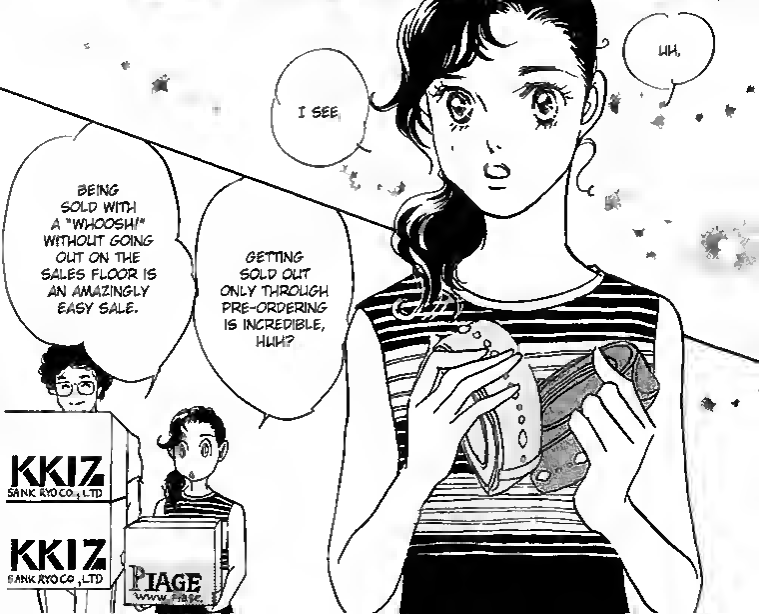
FI—
AN—
CÉE
AH—
I'M KINDA—
INCONCEIVABLE! DO I—
LOVE DAIMYOUJIN!?
SHOCKED
!?
WEAR THIS
YOU MUST BECOME THE BELLE OF THE BALL—!
The flowers are way too big

BUT STILL, WHAT'S WITH THIS DISAPPOINTMENT?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD HAPPEN.
LOVE...
Tried it on
IF I KNOW IT'S HIS BUSINESS AND I REGRET IT— THEN,
AREN'T I COVETING HIM?!
IS IT GREED?!
CONTINUING ON, HERE IS AN EXPLANATION OF THE ITEMS BY AMANO-SAN.
YES.
HANDBAG AND SHOE ACCESSORIES.
THIS IS THE EARLY AUTUMN



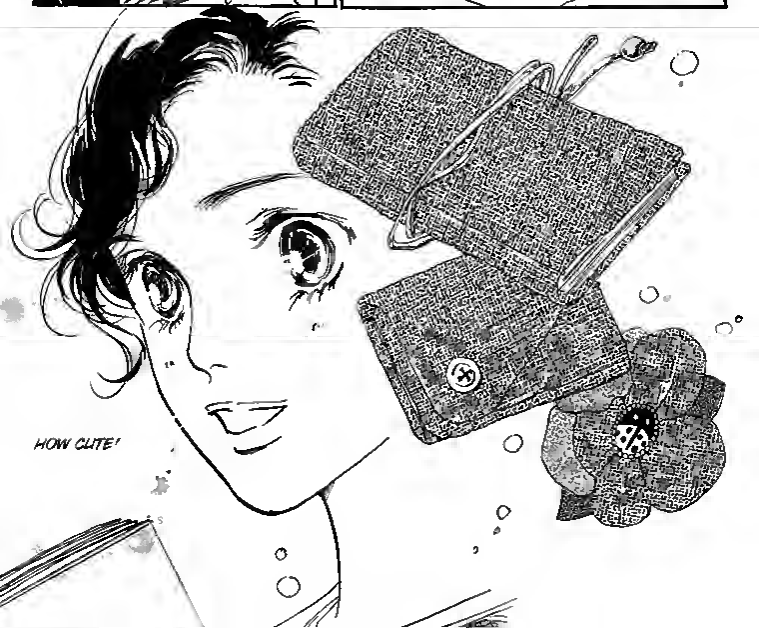
(T/N: Tobinekosha is a fake brand made up by Makimura-sensei. The kanji means "flying cat hut".)

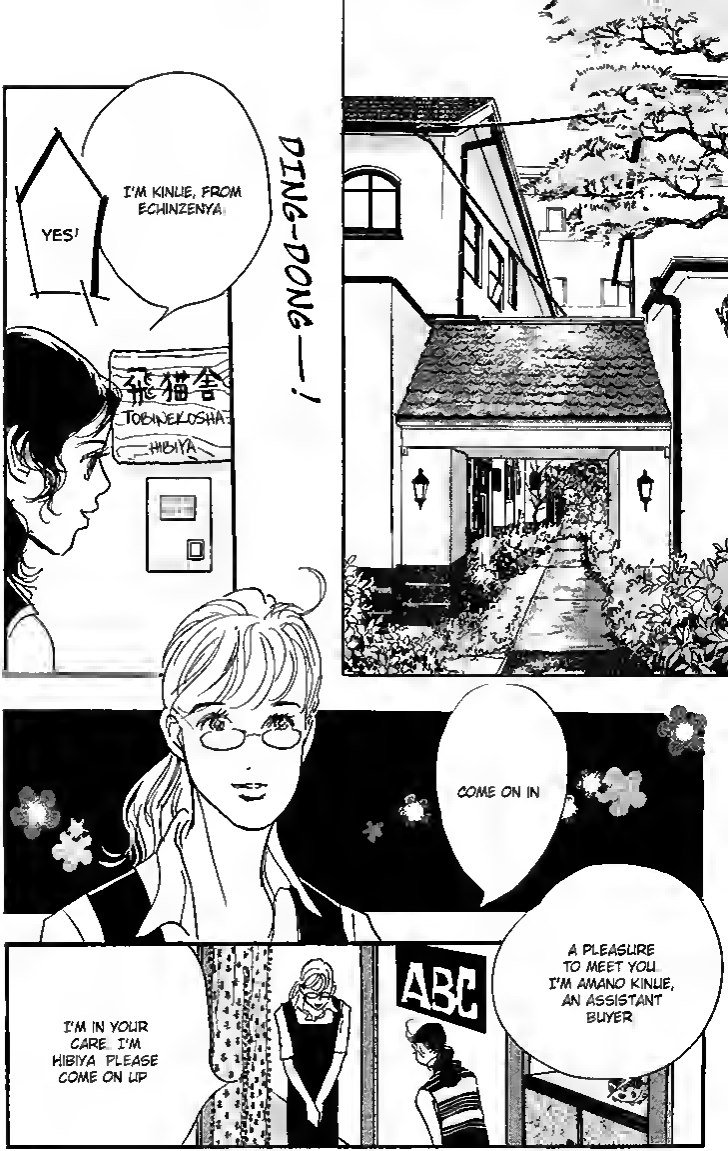



HH,
I SEE.
BEING SOLD WITH A "WHOOSH!" WITHOUT GOING OUT ON THE SALES FLOOR IS AN AMAZINGLY EASY SALE.
GETTING SOLD OUT ONLY THROUGH PRE-ORDERING IS INCREDIBLE, HUH?
KKIZ
BANK RYO CO., LTD
KKIZ
BANK RYO CO., LTD
PIAGE
www.Piage.

Real Clothes 3

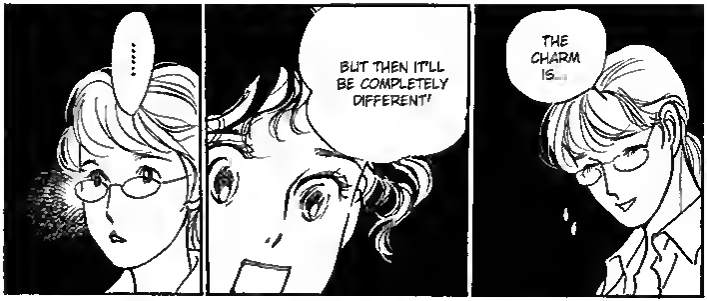
HMMM~
IT'S A PREMIUM ITEM.
WITH THEIR DELIVERIES AT TEN UNITS EACH.
HERE'S THE FILE FOR TOBI-NEKOSHA'S NEXT ORDER.
ZEN
CI YA
NEW
THAT BELT WAS A PART OF THE DIRECT MARKETING FOR OUR CARD-CARRYING CUSTOMERS.
EVER SINCE THEY STARTED, THOSE DESIGNERS HAVE HAD A TON OF AVID FANS
IT'S JUST TWO SISTERS, SO THEY CAN'T MAKE A LARGE AMOUNT.

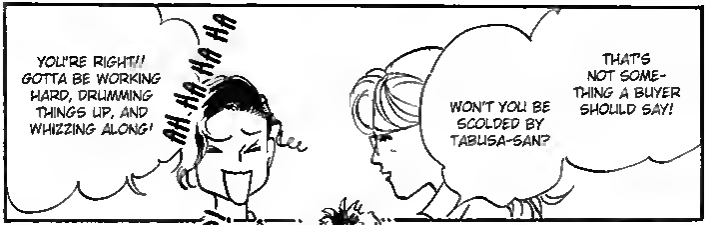



DING-DONG—!
YES!
I'M KINUE, FROM ECHINZENYA
飛猫舎
TOBINEKOSHA
HIBIYA
COME ON IN
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU. I'M AMANO KINUE, AN ASSISTANT BUYER
ABC
I'M IN YOUR CARE. I'M HIBIYA. PLEASE COME ON UP

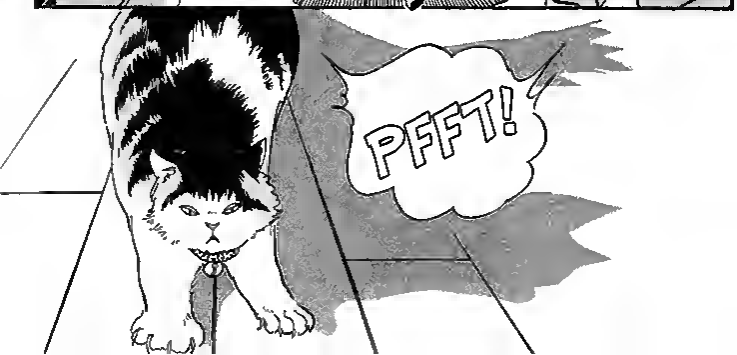
I'LL GET US SOME DRINKS WOULD YOU LIKE COFFEE OR TEA?
I HAVE SOME RAW HERBAL TEA, TOO
THAT ONE, PLEASE!

THIS IS... I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THIS CORSAGE
SORRY.
THINGS LIKE THAT TAKE AN AWFUL LOT OF TIME AND WORK...
AND THE ANTIQUE LACE IS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
—SO SAYING THAT,
IF THE RETAIL PRICE GOES OVER 15,000 YEN, IN OUR CASE, IT LOSES ITS ABILITY TO COMPETE WHEN LINED UP IN THE ECHIZENYA SHOWROOM IT'S NO GOOD
IN ORDER TO LOWER THE PRICE, WE'RE USING OUR LATEST LACE AND HAVING A FACTORY MAKE IT.
?


.....
BUT THEN IT'LL BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
THE CHARM IS...

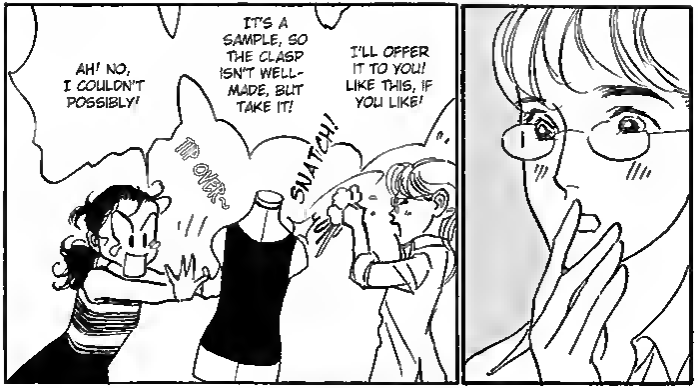

YOU'RE RIGHT!! GOTTA BE WORKING HARD, DRUMMING THINGS UP, AND WHIZZING ALONG!
AH HA HA HA
WON'T YOU BE SCOLDED BY TABUSA-SAN?
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING A BUYER SHOULD SAY!

WORKING HARD!
DRUMMING THINGS UP!
O...


PFFT!

I...
EVER SINCE I WAS SMALL, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE SPEED OF THOSE AROUND ME
Ah-ha...
YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL I'M SO SLOW.
AND I FINALLY GOT CUSTOMERS TO ADORE IT
MAKING AN ACCOUNT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND THEN I WAS ABLE TO HAVE ECHIZENYA DISTRIBUTE MY ITEMS
PURR PURR
AND THE BUYERS EVEN TOLD ME, "WE'LL SELL THEM!"
EVEN THOUGH I'M SO BLESSED
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR ONLY BEING ABLE TO DELIVER IN SMALL NUMBERS
I HAVEN'T COME WITH ANY UNREASONABLE ORDERS.
I JUST WANTED TO MEET YOU— SEE WHAT KIND OF PERSON MADE SUCH THINGS.

FUN, PLEASING,
CUTE, CALMING—
It's heart-warming!
YOUR PERSONALITY AND STUDIO ARE EXACTLY LIKE YOUR PRODUCTS.
I TOTALLY AGREE WITH YOU— REALLY!
PLEASE CONTINUE WITH ECHIZENYA— DOUZO YORO-SHIKU!
BOW!
—AND SO, PLEASE EXCUSE ME
THANK YOU
UM...
SO WHICH SHOP ARE YOU SELLING IT IN?
I'LL GO BUY IT
...AND I WOULD LIKE TO BUY THIS FOR MYSELF,


AH! NO, I COULDN'T POSSIBLY!
IT'S A SAMPLE, SO THE CLASP ISN'T WELL-MADE, BUT TAKE IT!
I'LL OFFER IT TO YOU! LIKE THIS, IF YOU LIKE!
IT OVER~
SNATCH!

EHHH~!! THANK YOU VERY MUCH~
OH DEAR! THERE ARE SOME MARKS ON IT!
TAKE IT— I'LL WRAP IT UP.

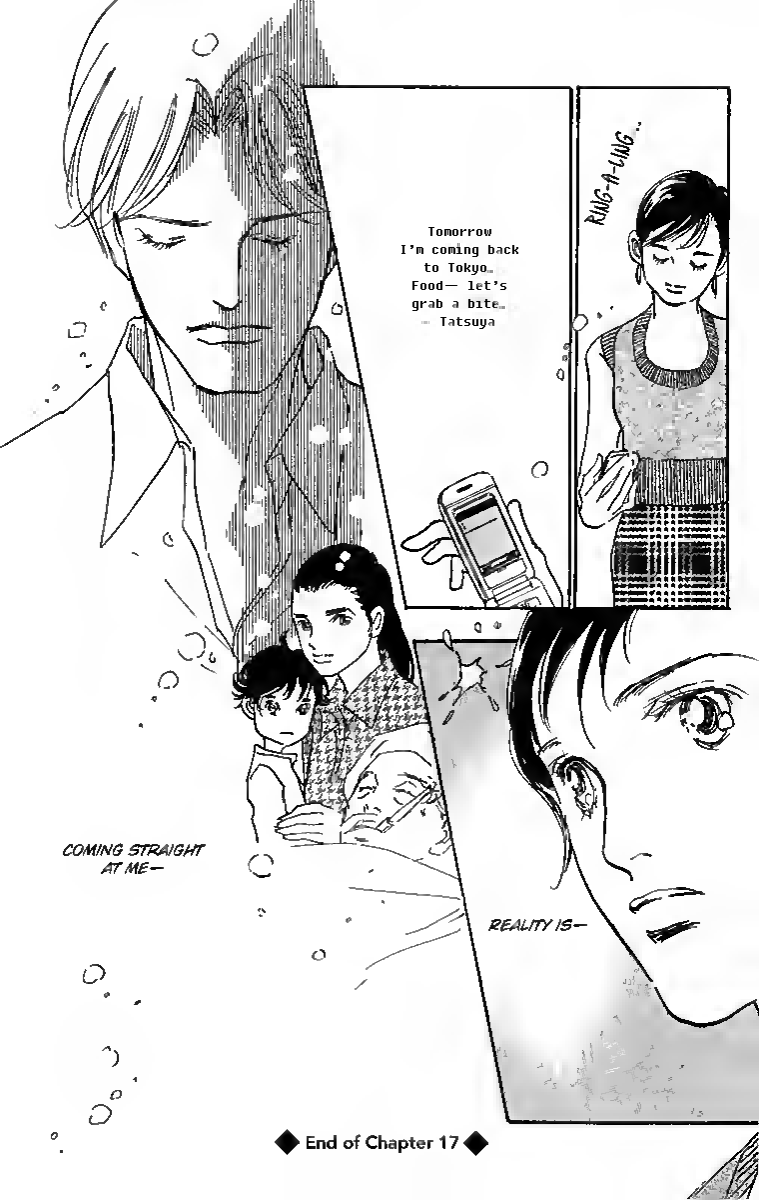
IF TABUSA FINDS OUT, I'LL GET YELLED AT~
So happy~
EEK~
GASP!
ONEE-CHAN, TROUBLE! "LIVING LAND" HAS GONE BANKRUPT!

WE'LL GO BANKRUPT...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? IF WE CAN'T SELL THEM,
BUT THEN... THESE ARE NEXT WEEK'S DELIVERIES.
飛猫舎
飛猫舎
飛猫舎
WHAT? NO WAY!
I'M GOING OVER THERE NOW
TO PULL OUT OUR PRODUCTS.
WHOOSH
I can't walk any further!
Just wait a little longer
Unee-chan, I'm hungry!
EXCUSE ME,
WE AREN'T SUCH A BIG BUSINESS THAT WE BORROW MONEY OR ANYTHING...
A CHAIN-BANKRUPTCY WOULDN'T HAPPEN--?
I saw something over the top
JUST KIDDING!

PLEASE SELL ALL THOSE BOXES
TO ECHIZENYA.
I'll get someone to sign off on this right away!
Eh-
That-
BUY IT!

TOBINEKOSHA'S PRODUCTS WERE RESTOCKED?!
BY AMANO?!
AND THEY'RE ALREADY SOLD OUT?!
IN SHORT...
WITH THE BRAND BEING ONE THAT THE BOSS FINDS DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH, AMANO-SAN WENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM QUITE NORMALLY— AND THAT'S ALL.
AS EXPECTED OF THE BOSS! YOU SAW AMANO-SAN'S STRENGTHS RIGHT AWAY.
THAT TOOK SOME GOOD COORDINATION, HUH?
LOVE

THAT'S WHY—
COUGH!
K?!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU? IF WE TEAM UP, THINGS WILL WORK OUT
DOES DAIMYOUJIN NEED ME?
WORK OUT?
K?
MEETING!
HA HA HA HA



◆ End of Chapter 17 ◆

SUBMITTED BY MARIS

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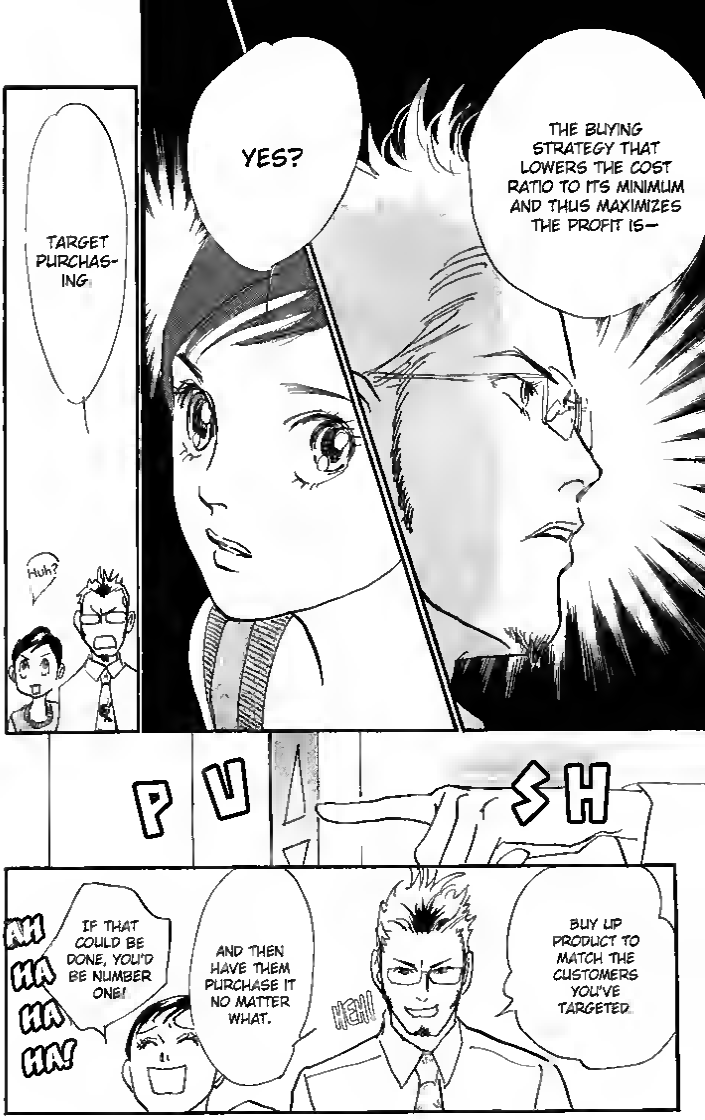
Real Clothes

by Hakimura Sabu

Real Clothes

Chapter 18

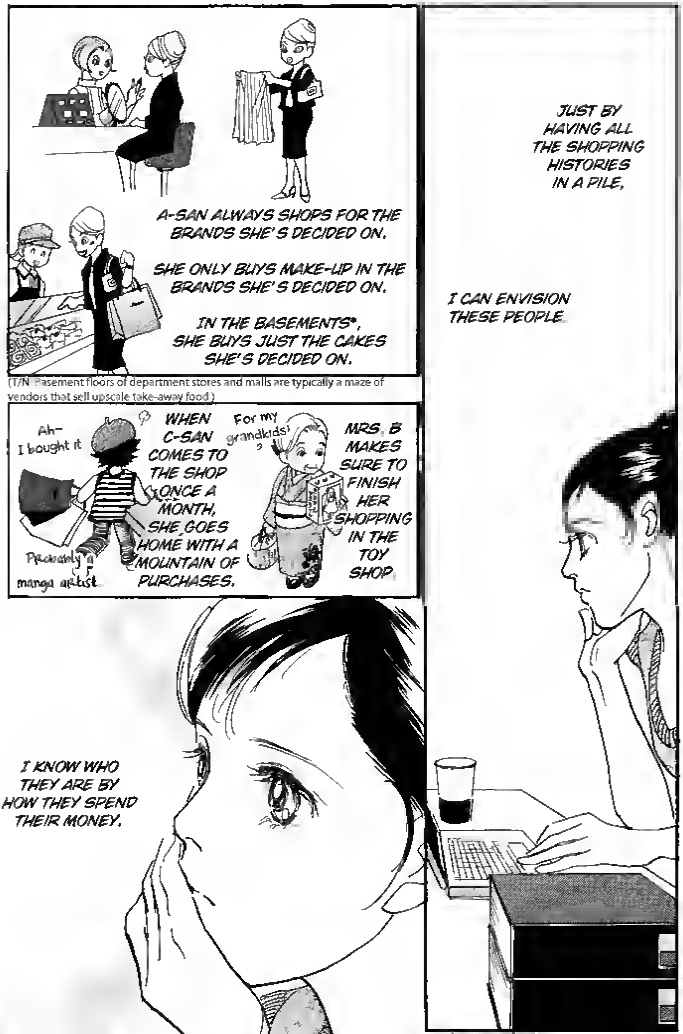

TARGET PURCHASING
Huh?
YES?
THE BUYING STRATEGY THAT LOWERS THE COST RATIO TO ITS MINIMUM AND THUS MAXIMIZES THE PROFIT IS—
PUSH
BUY UP PRODUCT TO MATCH THE CUSTOMERS YOU'VE TARGETED.
AND THEN HAVE THEM PURCHASE IT NO MATTER WHAT.
IF THAT COULD BE DONE, YOU'D BE NUMBER ONE!
AH HA HA HA!

THE VIPS WILL BE GATHERED OVER THE WEEKEND. IT'S THE 2007 A-W LAUNCH AND PRE-ORDER PARTY.
EH! I WANT TO GO!
THERE WILL BE SWARMS OF HOUSEWIVES,
WHO HAVE SO MUCH MONEY THEY WHINE ABOUT IT, HAVE LOTS OF FREE TIME ON THEIR HANDS, AND "WANT TO BUY SOMETHING PRETTY."
"WANT TO BUY SOMETHING" WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
Does that mean it could be anything?
FOR HUMANS, THE ACT OF BUYING IS THE QUICKEST WAY TO RELEASE STRESS.
THEY GET EXCITED BY THE THRILL OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY'LL BUY THIS.
THEY GET AN ADRENALINE RUSH, MAKE A PURCHASE AND FEEL RELIEVED!

GET A BROAD PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR PERSONAL SHOPPING HISTORY AND DRILL THEIR PREFERENCES INTO YOUR HEAD.
YES, SIR!
MEMORIZING THE CUSTOMERS FOR FIVE YEARS OF SALES IS MY SPECIALTY!
HERE'S THE LIST OF THE TOP CUSTOMERS WHO WILL BE AT THE LAUNCH PARTY.
LOOK UP THEIR HUSBANDS AND FATHERS IN THE "WHO'S WHO."
2007A-W
Confidential
OOOOH-WAAA! THIS "TANAKA-SAMA" HAS BEEN SPENDING 200,000 YEN A MONTH HERE!
ALMOST ALL OF THEM COME IN TWICE A WEEK.
I WANT TO MAKE THEM HONORARY EMPLOYEES.

A-SAN ALWAYS SHOPS FOR THE BRANDS SHE'S DECIDED ON.
SHE ONLY BUYS MAKE-UP IN THE BRANDS SHE'S DECIDED ON.
IN THE BASEMENTS*, SHE BUYS JUST THE CAKES SHE'S DECIDED ON.
Ah- I bought it
Probably a manga artist
WHEN C-SAN COMES TO THE SHOP ONCE A MONTH, SHE GOES HOME WITH A MOUNTAIN OF PURCHASES.
For my grandkids)
MRS. B MAKES SURE TO FINISH HER SHOPPING IN THE TOY SHOP.

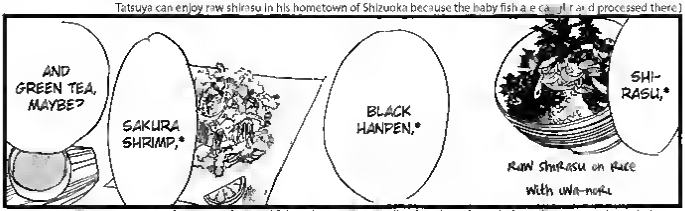
(T/N *basement floors of department stores and malls are typically a maze of vendors that sell upscale take-away food.)


JUST BY HAVING ALL THE SHOPPING HISTORIES IN A PILE,
I CAN ENVISION THESE PEOPLE.
I KNOW WHO THEY ARE BY HOW THEY SPEND THEIR MONEY.

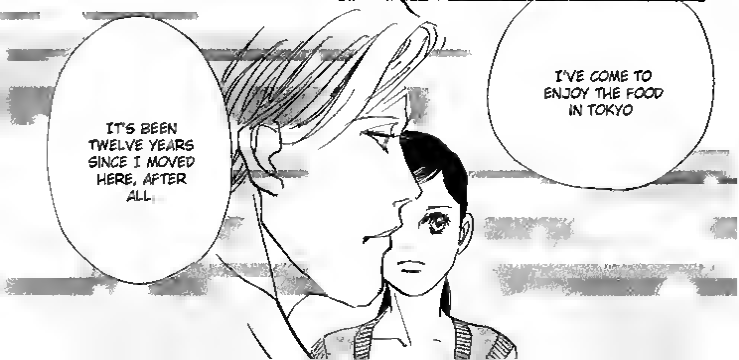
WHAT I BUY SAYS WHO I AM, I GUESS.
AH! THAT'S SO CUTE!
BUY IT?
ER!
THIS PERSON LIKES ITALIAN THINGS. SHE LOVES FURS.
YOU'RE HARD AT WORK, I SEE

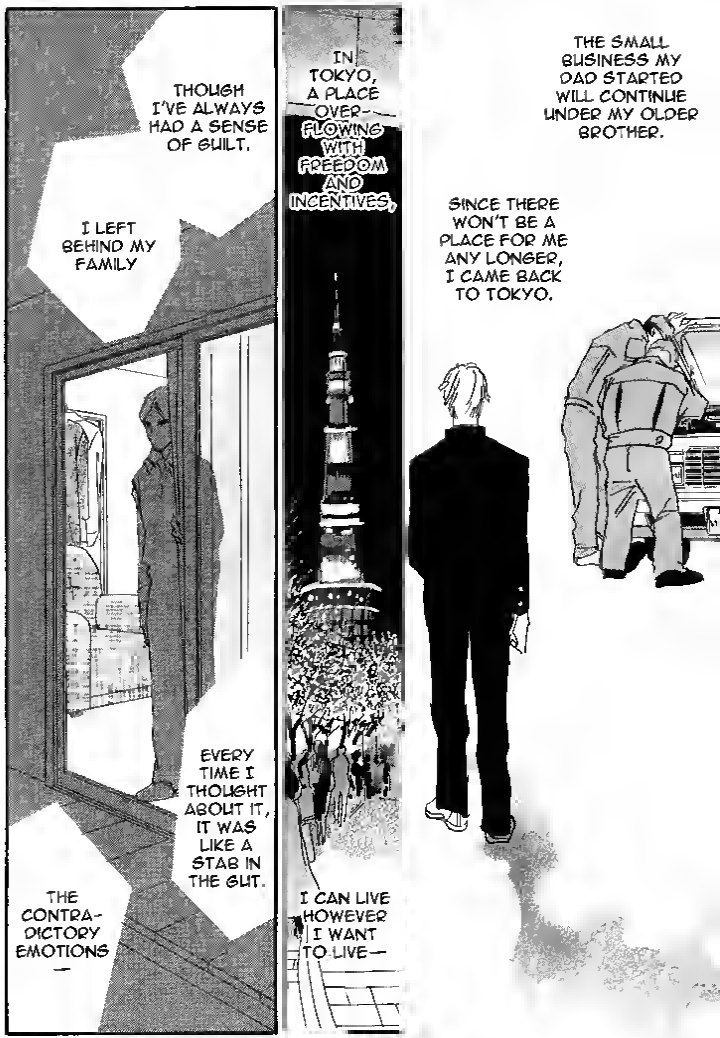
TATSUYA!
I'M BRINGING HOME WORK MYSELF
THANK GOD—
HE LOOKS OKAY.
THAT HITS THE SPOT~!
I'M BACK IN TOKYO!

(T/N: Shirasu or "shirasuboshi" are baby sardines or anchovies that are commonly preserved by boiling and drying. Tatsuya can enjoy raw shirasu in his hometown of Shizuoka because the baby fish are caught and processed there.)



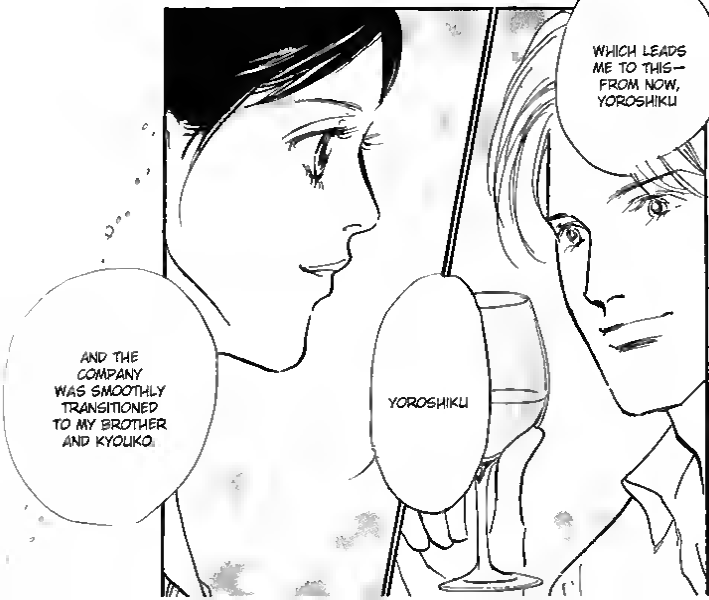
(T/N: Hanpen is a soft mixture of ground fish and yam. It is typically white, but when whole sardines are used, it is dark gray. Sakura shrimp are very tiny shrimp that are generally used as garnishes.)



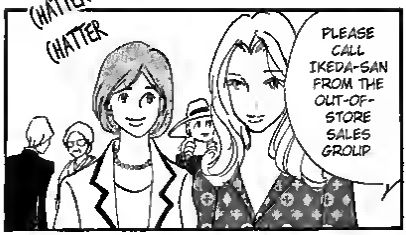

THE CONTRA-DICTORY EMOTIONS —
EVERY TIME I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, IT WAS LIKE A STAB IN THE GUT.
I LEFT BEHIND MY FAMILY
THOUGH I'VE ALWAYS HAD A SENSE OF GUILT.
I CAN LIVE HOWEVER I WANT TO LIVE—
IN TOKYO, A PLACE OVER-FLOWING WITH FREEDOM AND INCENTIVES,
SINCE THERE WON'T BE A PLACE FOR ME ANY LONGER, I CAME BACK TO TOKYO.
THE SMALL BUSINESS MY DAD STARTED WILL CONTINUE UNDER MY OLDER BROTHER.

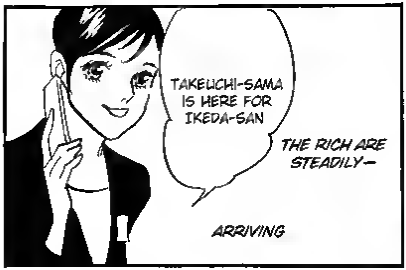
I DIDN'T KNOW
SO ONLY ONE SIDE OF YOU IS
A CITY-SIDE?

FOR THE TIME BEING, IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE WORKING WITH MY 'CITY-SIDE' JUST LIKE I HAVE BEEN.
WELL,
HA HA
HA HA HA


WHICH LEADS ME TO THIS— FROM NOW, YOROSHIKU
AND THE COMPANY WAS SMOOTHLY TRANSITIONED TO MY BROTHER AND KYOUKO.
YOROSHIKU

DOESN'T TATSUYA WANT A FAMILY?
DO I WANT A FAMILY—?
ALT
A PLACE FOR ME...
AND MOMO-CHAN IS SO CUTE.
YEAH.
KYOUKO-SAN IS SUCH A JAW-DROPPINGLY COOL PERSON, HUH?
YUP. SHE'S FAIRLY THAT, AND ALSO SCATTER-BRAINED.
EEH!?
SHE FORGETS THE LAUNDRY IN THE WASHING MACHINE. SHE LEAVES THINGS SHE BOUGHT WITH THE CASHIER
BUT THAT'S ANOTHER OF HER CHARMS.

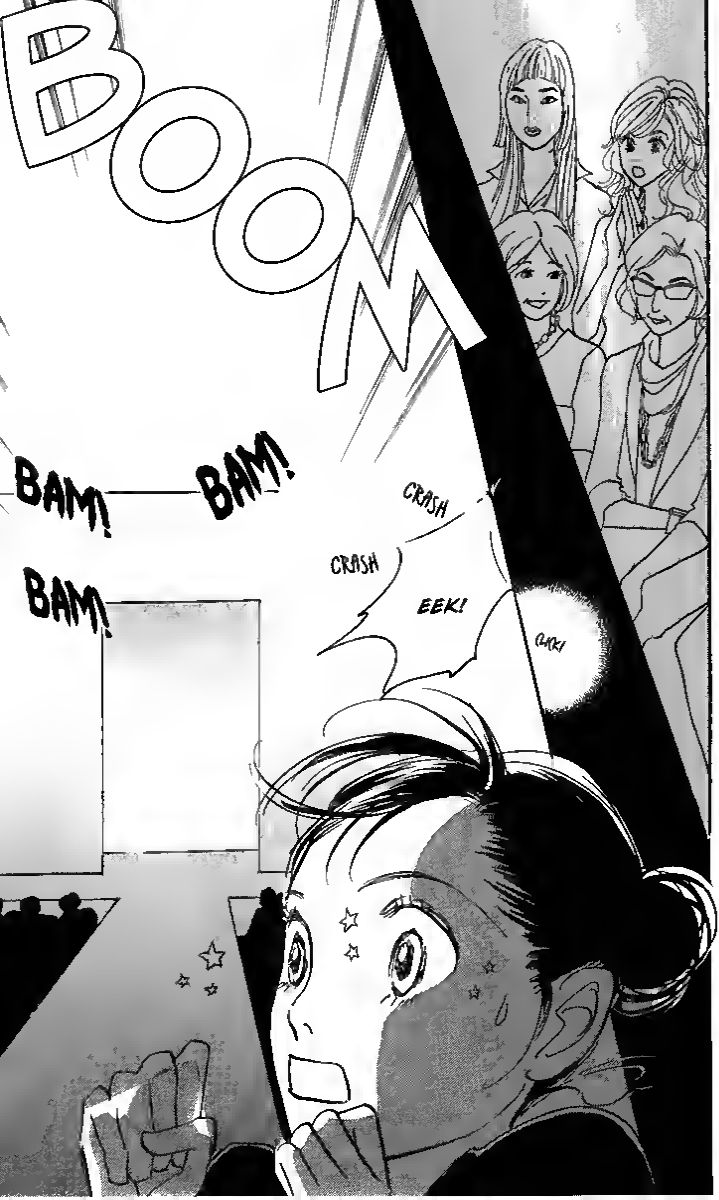

(HATTER
(HATTER
PLEASE CALL IKEDA-SAN FROM THE OUT-OF-STORE SALES GROUP


TAKEUCHI-SAMA IS HERE FOR IKEDA-SAN
THE RICH ARE STEADILY—
ARRIVING

PLEASE MARK THE ONES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN.
HERE IS A LIST OF ITEMS IN TODAY'S SHOW.

FIVE MINUTES UNTIL THE SHOW STARTS STAFF, PLEASE TAKE YOUR PLACES
FIVE MINUTES.
IRASSHAI-MASE!

IRASSHAI-MASE!
2007
A-W
Echizenya
Collection


BOOM
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
CRASH
CRASH
EEK!
OHK!

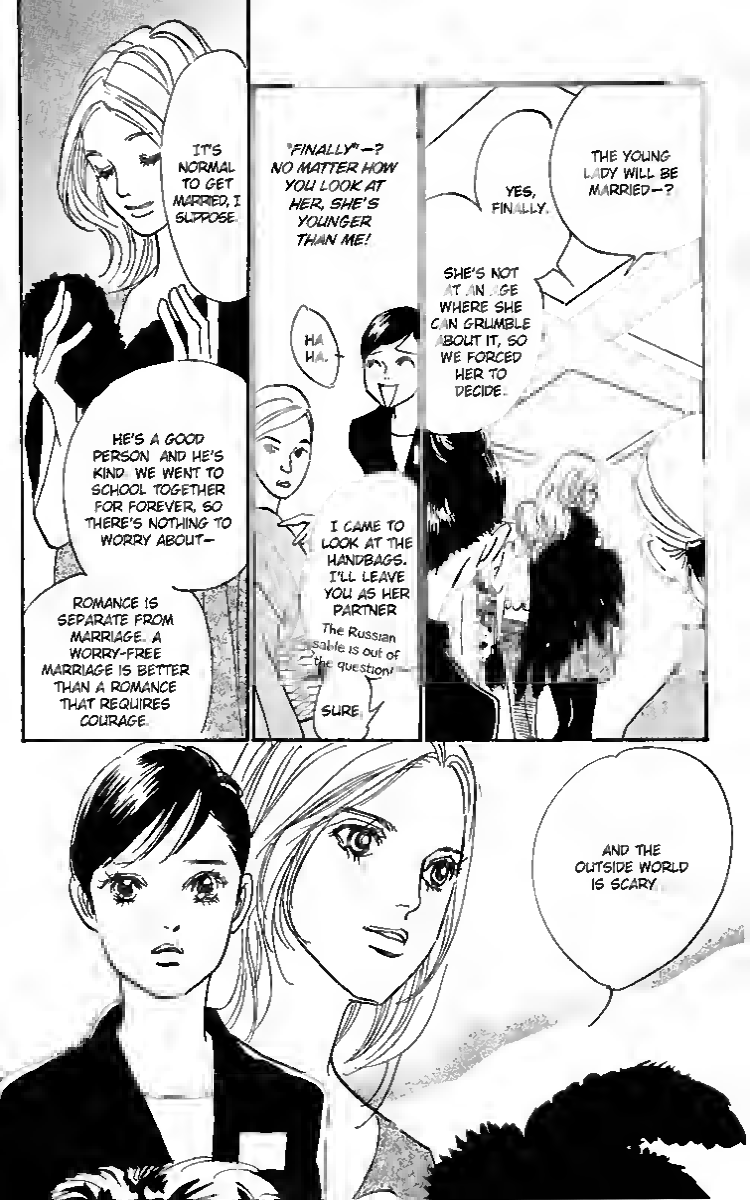
6

IT'S LIKE A DREAM.

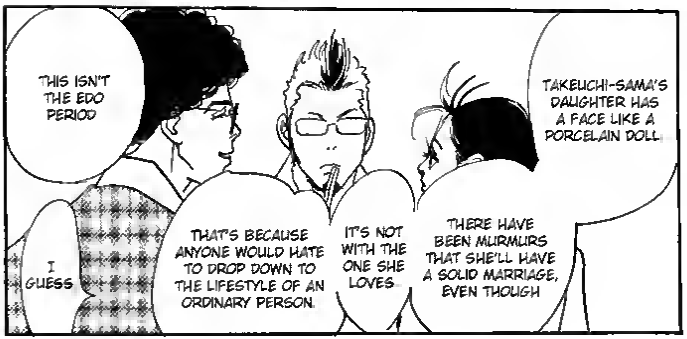
COME ON— WE'RE GONNA SELL BEFORE THE CUSTOMERS' EXCITEMENT COOLS OFF!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
MADAME MIKI IS OUR COMPANY'S STYLE ICON.
WOW— IT'S MIKI-SAMA!
I feel like I could cry—!
PLEASE HAVE SOME CHAMPAGNE AND A LIGHT SNACK.

THIS ONE
THIS ONE!
IT WAS SO CUTE!
HEY, MAMA,
THIS ONE!
THEN THIS ONE— THE RUSSIAN SABLE.
That's 10,000,000 yen
WHITE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. ONCE YOU'RE MARRIED, THERE WILL BE NO PLACE FOR YOU TO GO ABOUT WEARING SOMETHING SO FRIVOLOUS!
AW ~!
"Well then"!?
AH! WELL THEN, THE BLACK NUTRIA*!
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY!

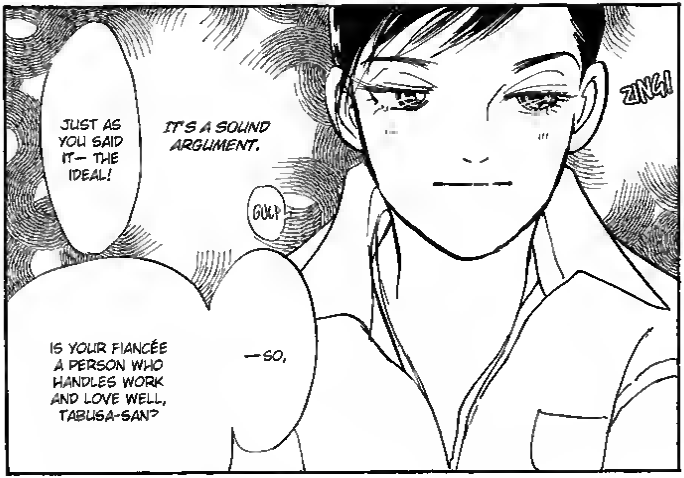
(T/N Nutria are rodents whose pelts are sometimes advertised as "guilt free fur" since they are exterminated in large numbers as pests.)

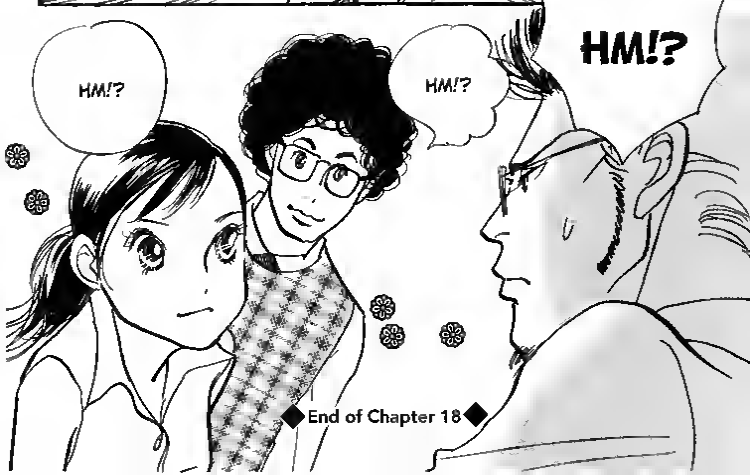

IT'S NORMAL TO GET MARRIED, I SUPPOSE.
HE'S A GOOD PERSON AND HE'S KIND. WE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER FOR FOREVER, SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT—
ROMANCE IS SEPARATE FROM MARRIAGE. A WORRY-FREE MARRIAGE IS BETTER THAN A ROMANCE THAT REQUIRES COURAGE.
"FINALLY"—? NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT HER, SHE'S YOUNGER THAN ME!
HA HA.
I CAME TO LOOK AT THE HANDBAGS. I'LL LEAVE YOU AS HER PARTNER
The Russian sable is out of the question!
SURE.
THE YOUNG LADY WILL BE MARRIED—?
YES, FINALLY.
SHE'S NOT AT AN AGE WHERE SHE CAN GRUMBLE ABOUT IT, SO WE FORCED HER TO DECIDE.
AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS SCARY

THE SO-CALLED "THE HIGH CLASS" REALLY DOES EXIST, HUH.
AH.
slump
WE TARGETED THE GATHERING OF THE RICH~!
PWA!
OTSUKARE-SAMA~!
夜月
THE TAKEUCHI MOTHER-AND-DAUGHTER PAIR BROUGHT IN 1,500,000 YEN.
JINBO-BUCHO SOLD THAT RUSSIAN SABLE


THIS ISN'T THE EDO PERIOD
I GUESS
THAT'S BECAUSE ANYONE WOULD HATE TO DROP DOWN TO THE LIFESTYLE OF AN ORDINARY PERSON.
IT'S NOT WITH THE ONE SHE LOVES.
THERE HAVE BEEN MURMURS THAT SHE'LL HAVE A SOLID MARRIAGE, EVEN THOUGH
TAKEUCHI-SAMA'S DAUGHTER HAS A FACE LIKE A PORCELAIN DOLL.

I...
AM FINE WITH BUYING ANYTHING— NOT EXACTLY THAT, BUT—
I WILL DEFINITELY BUY THE THINGS THAT I WANT! WITH MY OWN MONEY!
IF YOU DON'T PAY YOUR OWN WAY, YOU WON'T BECOME FASHIONABLE
YUP!!
HOWEVER, IF I WORK WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING FOR THE CLOTHES THAT I WANT,
THERE WON'T BE TIME TO GET MARRIED
IT'S HARD TO SWAL-LOW
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WORK IS WORK.
ROMANCE IS ROMANCE.
THEY'RE TOTALLY SEPARATE THINGS. IT WOULD BE STRANGE TO WEIGH THEM ON THE SAME SCALE.


JUST AS YOU SAID IT— THE IDEAL!
IT'S A SOUND ARGUMENT.
GULP
ZING!
IS YOUR FIANCÉE A PERSON WHO HANDLES WORK AND LOVE WELL, TABUSA-SAN?
—SO,



End of Chapter 18

http://steamykitchen.com/5874-gyoza-recipe-japanese-pan-fried-dumplings.html

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Real Clothes

by Hakimura Satoru

Real Clothes

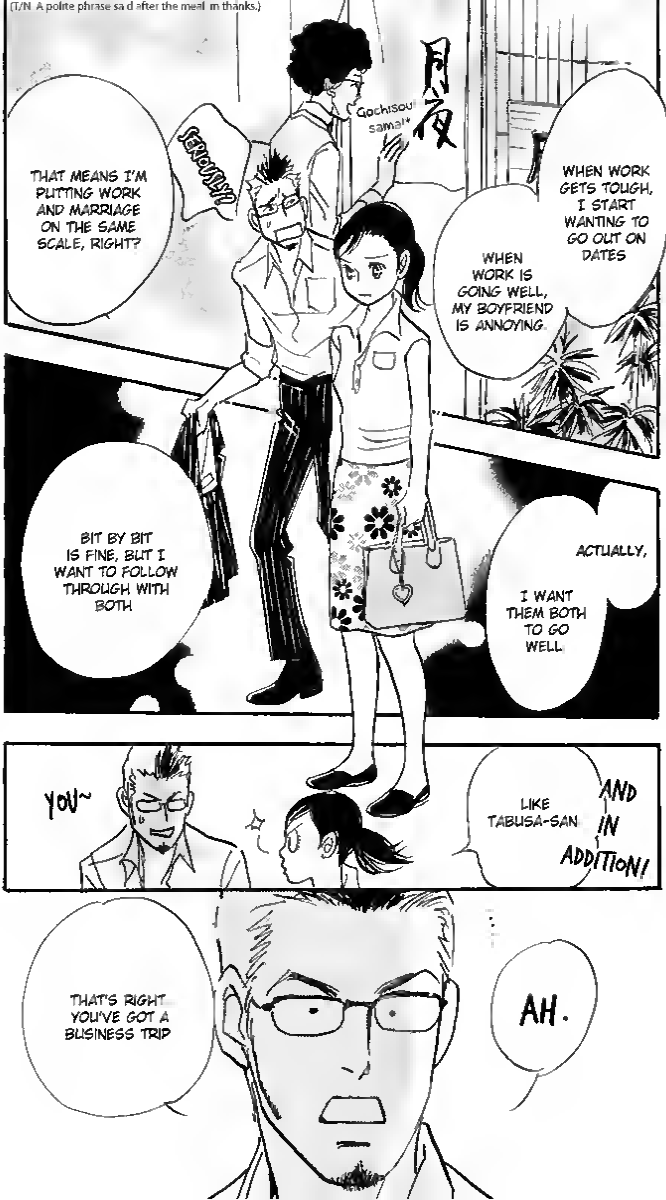
Chapter 19

(T/N Gyouza are Chinese fried dumplings)

YOU MEAN, THAT'S THE "LOVE FOOD" SHE MAKES FOR YOUR SAKE— RIGHT?
EH? YOU THINK SO?
"YOU THINK SO?" SAYS THE DIMWIT WHO HAS AN ITALIAN CHEF MAKE HIM GYOUZA
GYOU..?
THAT'S SO GREAT!!
SHE MUST BE FOOLING AROUND BEHIND YOUR BACK~!2
SMIRK
IN LIFE, LOVE IS EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE BOTH WRONG
HEY, IF YOU'LL LET ME SAY SOMETHING—

AGAPE!
HOW COME WE END UP THINKING THAT "ROMANCE" IS "SOMEONE LOVING ME"?
WE ARE THE ONES WHO APPROVE OUR PARTNERS
"HOW PERSEVERING I AM!" WE SAY
IT'S IDIOTIC NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU DATE, YOU WON'T GROW UP
WE ARE SELFISH CREATURES ...
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID, TABUSA-SAN— THEY'RE SEPARATE MATTERS

(T/N: A polite phrase said after the meal in thanks.)


月夜
Gochisou sama!
SENSUOUS
WHEN WORK GETS TOUGH, I START WANTING TO GO OUT ON DATES
WHEN WORK IS GOING WELL, MY BOYFRIEND IS ANNOYING
THAT MEANS I'M PUTTING WORK AND MARRIAGE ON THE SAME SCALE, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, I WANT THEM BOTH TO GO WELL
BIT BY BIT IS FINE, BUT I WANT TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH BOTH
AND IN ADDITION!
LIKE TABUSA-SAN
YOU~
AH.
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'VE GOT A BUSINESS TRIP

NEW—?
THE 2008 S-S BUY UP IN NEW YORK.
I'M GOING TO BE WORKING WITH THE HIGHER-END BRANDS AND HANDBAGS.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU SPECIALIZE IN THOSE, SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY PURCHASING THE GOODS?
I'LL GO!! IT'S ALRIGHT IF I USE THE COMPANY'S MONEY TO BUY THINGS I LIKE, RIGHT?

NOT THE THINGS YOU LIKE,
THE THINGS YOU CAN SELL!
IT'S WORK!!
BUYING IN NEW YORK!
ARE YOU GOING TOO, NIKOLIN?
YES!
IT'LL BE A VAC-ATION !!
ALL RIGHT—!
I'll see a musical!
Stupid! You won't have time for that

YOUR FIRST BUSINESS TRIP!?
TO NEW YORK—
YOUR COMPANY IS AMAZING.
Hee-hee-hee-hee-hee!
Uh-huh!
Uh-huh!
CAN YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?

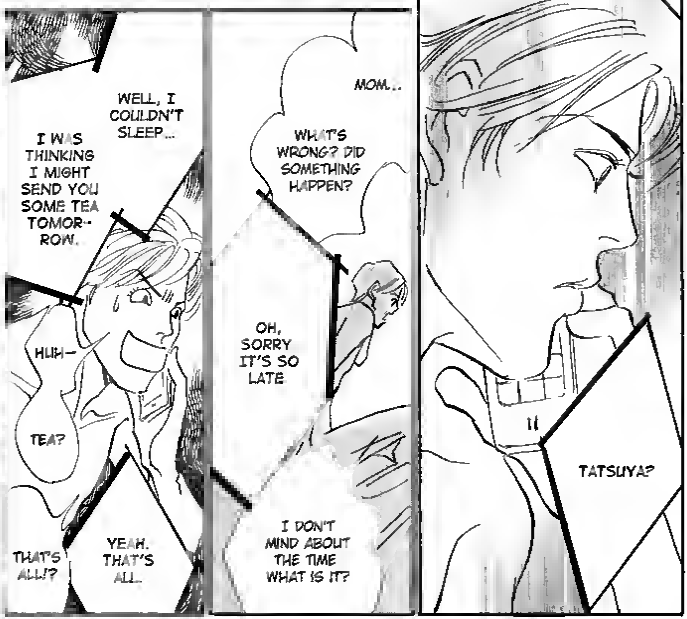
I'LL BUY ONE! AN ELECTRONIC DICTIONARY WITH TRAVEL ENGLISH
B-BMP

Shut up!
Huh? Huh?
mmff
CAN YOU DO ANY ACTUAL BUYING?
mmff
AND BESIDES,

UGH~
GOOD LUCK IT'LL WORK OUT IN JAPANESE

FLIP
HOW LONG UNTIL YOUR PASSPORT EXPIRES? IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE YOU WENT ON YOUR GRADUATION TRIP.

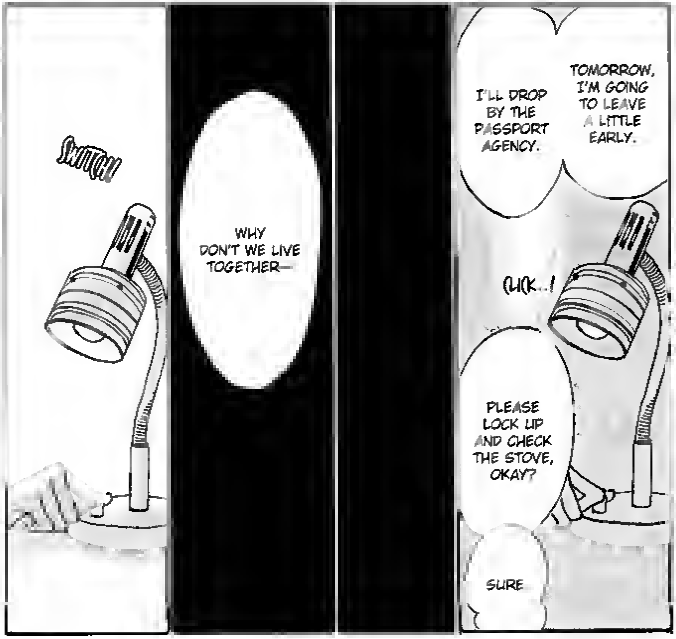
RING
RING
RING
BWAHA!
PA...
Gyaaaaaaa!

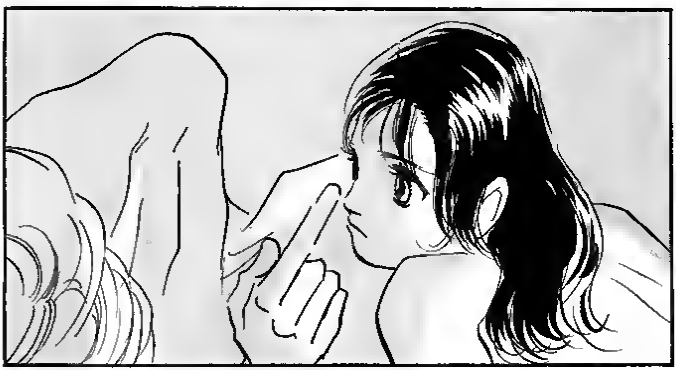

MOM...
WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
OH, SORRY IT'S SO LATE
I DON'T MIND ABOUT THE TIME WHAT IS IT?
TATSUYA?
WELL, I COULDN'T SLEEP...
I WAS THINKING I MIGHT SEND YOU SOME TEA TOMORROW.
HUH—
TEA?
YEAH. THAT'S ALL.
THAT'S ALL?

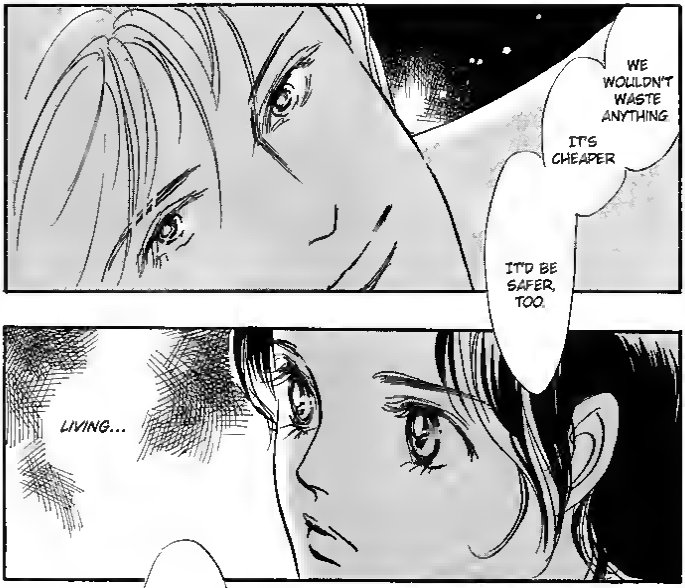
AH!
TALK TO YOU LATER. GOOD NIGHT.
CLICK!

BEEP—!

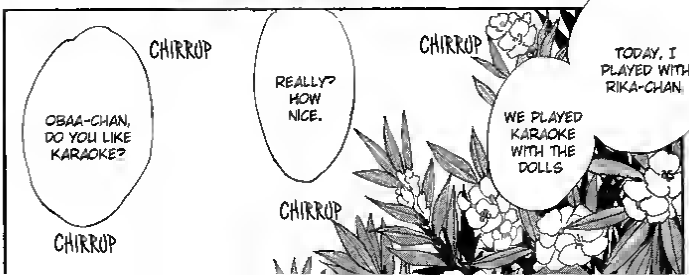
IT EXPIRED!
...
YOU'RE SO CUTE, KINUE
YOU'RE NATU-RAL
AND I'VE GOT SUCH A SOUR EXPRESSION
I WAS TERRIBLE WITH MAKE-UP. AND WHAT'S WITH MY SHOULDERS
It looks deli-cious
MY HAIRSTYLE WAS SO SEVERE
Pfft
MY CHEEKS WERE REALLY BIG
A FACE THAT LOOKS .. AS IF THE WORLD IS FULL OF ENEMIES.


SWITCH!
WHY DON'T WE LIVE TOGETHER—
TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO LEAVE A LITTLE EARLY.
I'LL DROP BY THE PASSPORT AGENCY.
CLICK..!
PLEASE LOCK UP AND CHECK THE STOVE, OKAY?
SURE.



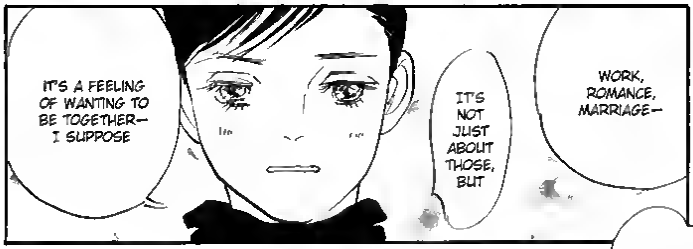

WE WOULDN'T WASTE ANYTHING
IT'S CHEAPER
IT'D BE SAFER, TOO.
LIVING...
TOGETHER...
THAT'S TRUE...

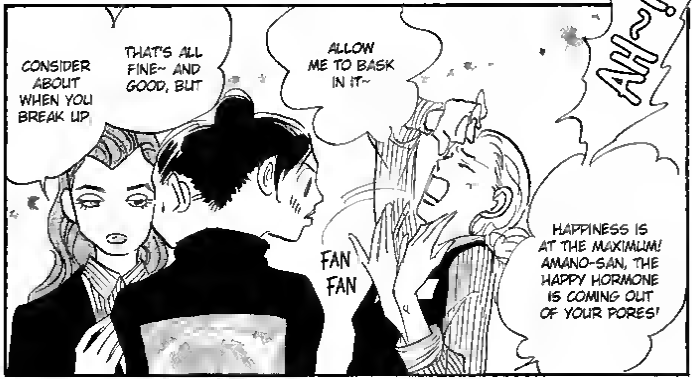
(*OBAA-CHAN: affectionate but respectful term for a grandmother)

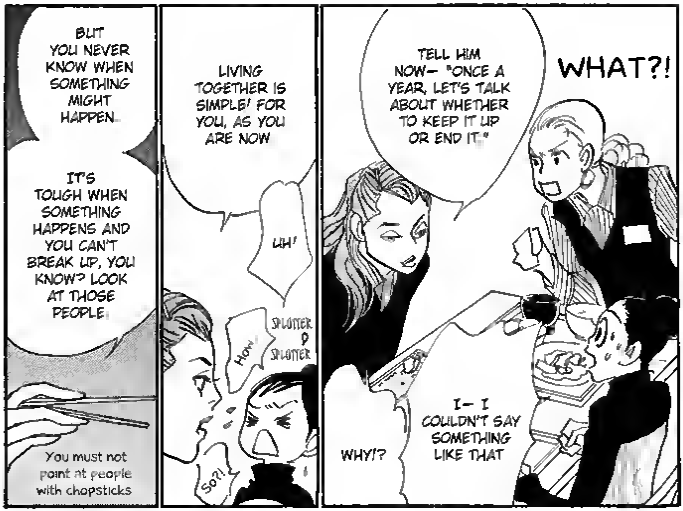


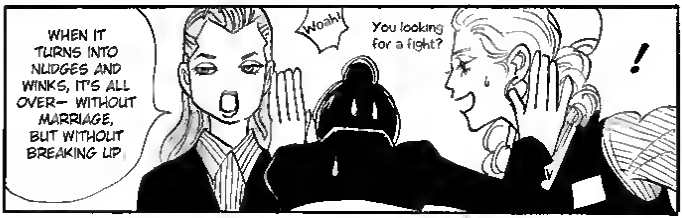
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
DO YOU?

YIKES!
MMMMM!

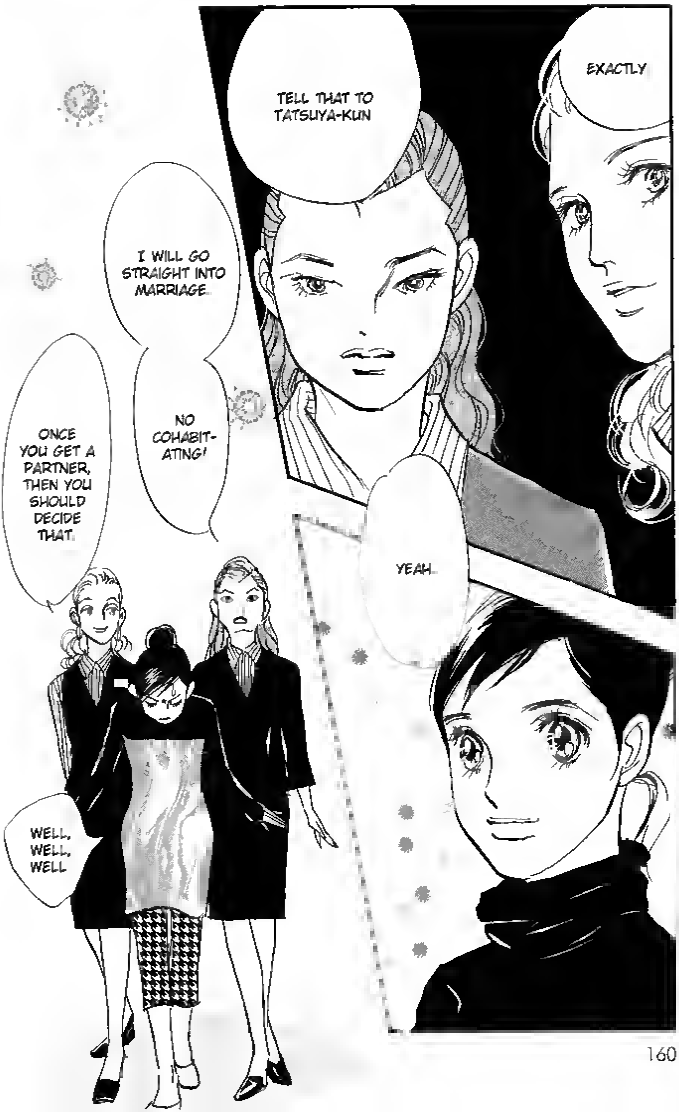

IT'S A FEELING OF WANTING TO BE TOGETHER— I SUPPOSE
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THOSE, BUT
WORK, ROMANCE, MARRIAGE—


CONSIDER ABOUT WHEN YOU BREAK UP
THAT'S ALL FINE~ AND GOOD, BUT
ALLOW ME TO BASK IN IT~
AH~!
FAN FAN
HAPPINESS IS AT THE MAXIMUM! AMANO-SAN, THE HAPPY HORMONE IS COMING OUT OF YOUR PORES!

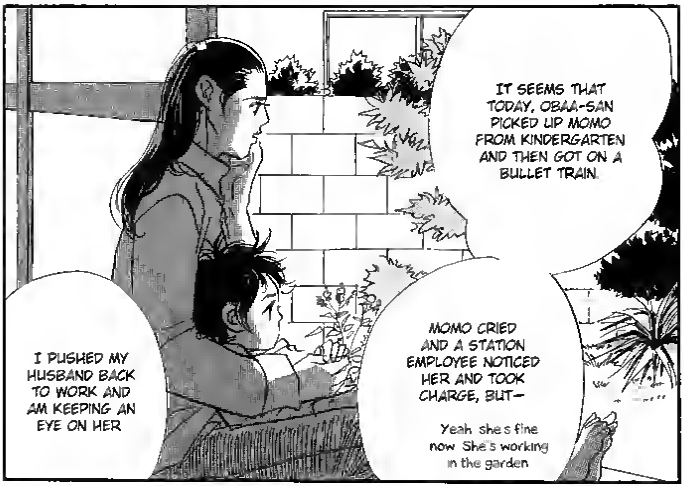

BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN.
IT'S TOUGH WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENS AND YOU CAN'T BREAK UP, YOU KNOW? LOOK AT THOSE PEOPLE.
You must not point at people with chopsticks
LIVING TOGETHER IS SIMPLE! FOR YOU, AS YOU ARE NOW
UH!
How!
SPLOTTER SPLOTTER
So?!
TELL HIM NOW— "ONCE A YEAR, LET'S TALK ABOUT WHETHER TO KEEP IT UP OR END IT."
WHAT?!
I— I COULDN'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
WHY!?


WHEN IT TURNS INTO NUDGES AND WINKS, IT'S ALL OVER— WITHOUT MARRIAGE, BUT WITHOUT BREAKING UP.
Woah!
You looking for a fight?
!

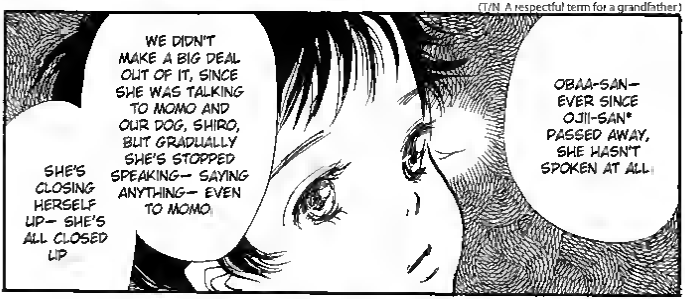
I TRUST THAT MUCH— THAT IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW...
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS,
TALKING IT OUT WOULD CLEAR IT UP


EXACTLY.
TELL THAT TO TATSUYA-KUN
I WILL GO STRAIGHT INTO MARRIAGE.
NO COHABITATING!
ONCE YOU GET A PARTNER, THEN YOU SHOULD DECIDE THAT.
YEAH.
WELL, WELL, WELL

4
KYOUKO-SAN?
IT'S ME, TATSUYA. I JUST GOT ONTO THE PLATFORM. WHAT'S GOING ON?
TATSUYA-KUN, I'M SO SORRY TO BOTHER YOU DURING WORK.
IF I WERE TO LIVE WITH TATSUYA
I'D BE A BIT CLOSER TO WORK,
AND I COULD GET TO TATSUYA'S COMPANY ALONG ONE TRAIN LINE.


IT SEEMS THAT TODAY, OBAA-SAN PICKED UP MOMO FROM KINDERGARTEN AND THEN GOT ON A BULLET TRAIN.
MOMO CRIED AND A STATION EMPLOYEE NOTICED HER AND TOOK CHARGE, BUT—
Yeah, she's fine now. She's working in the garden.
I PUSHED MY HUSBAND BACK TO WORK AND AM KEEPING AN EYE ON HER.

(T/N: A respectful term for a grandfather.)


OBAA-SAN— EVER SINCE OJII-SAN* PASSED AWAY, SHE HASN'T SPOKEN AT ALL.
WE DIDN'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT, SINCE SHE WAS TALKING TO MOMO AND OUR DOG, SHIRO, BUT GRADUALLY SHE'S STOPPED SPEAKING— SAYING ANYTHING— EVEN TO MOMO.
SHE'S CLOSING HERSELF UP— SHE'S ALL CLOSED UP.

EVEN MOMO IS GETTING DEPRESSED. SHE'S PLAYING WITH HER FRIENDS LESS.
I THOUGHT I WAS PREPARED, BUT FOR IT TO HAVE SUCH AN EFFECT ON OUR HOUSE LIKE THIS— I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THAT.

I THINK OBAA-SAN WANTS TO SEE YOU, TATSUYA-KUN
MY HUSBAND SAID NOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT ANY OF THIS— THAT YOU'LL WORRY ABOUT IT—
BUT IT'S DANGEROUS AS IT IS NOW
TATSUYA-KUN, PLEASE COME!
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP

◆ End of Chapter 19 ◆

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Proof-read by : Cyber_3
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Typeset by : In Valen's Name
QC by : Maris

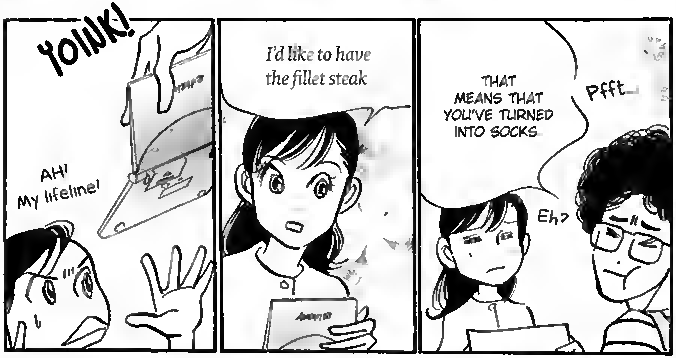
Real Clothes

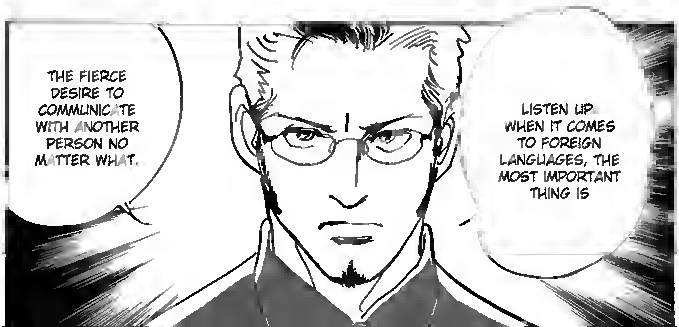
Real Clothes

Chapter 20

(T/N: She says it in a very formal style.)

"PLEASE GIVE ME THESE SOCKS IN ANOTHER COLOR," SO...
I_I_I'm this socks in_

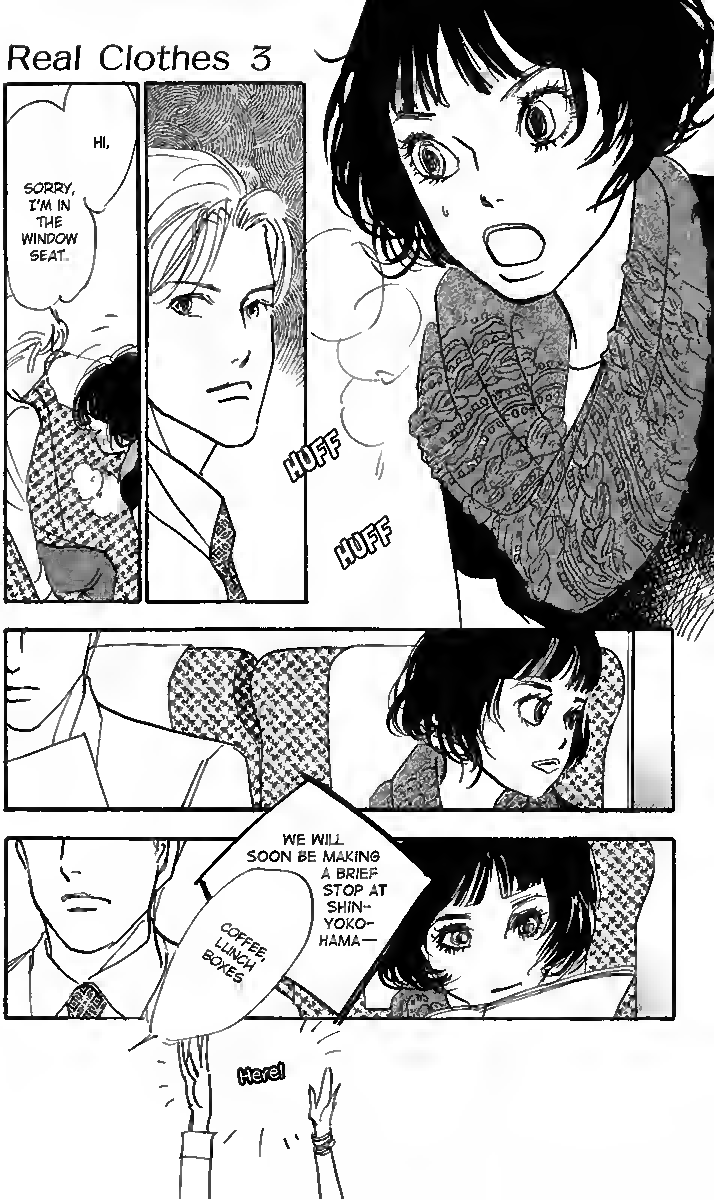

YOINK!
AH! My lifeline!
I'd like to have the fillet steak
THAT MEANS THAT YOU'VE TURNED INTO SOCKS
Pfft_
Eh?


THE FIERCE DESIRE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANOTHER PERSON NO MATTER WHAT.
LISTEN UP. WHEN IT COMES TO FOREIGN LANGUAGES, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS

I'LL BUY THIS ONE!!
THAT IS IN JAPANESE!
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER A JAPANESE-ENGLISH CONVERSATION LESSON WANTS YOU TO COMMUNICATE OR NOT.
TO BE PRECISE!
SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE OTHER PERSON'S HEART AND SPEAK.
FOR NOW, JAPANESE WILL BE FINE.
EEEEH!
This way it's impossible for her not to be able to buy something
—ALSO,
BUSINESS TRIPS START AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED ALL THE WORK YOU'LL MISS WHILE YOU'RE GONE.
CHECK AND SEE IF THE TIOR COATS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED DOWNSTAIRS!
ACK!

I HAVE A FEELING THAT ONCE I GO ON THIS TRIP, MY WORK WILL MULTIPLY.
SO BUSY~ I WISH I COULD CLONE MYSELF!
AH— AMANO-SAN, YOUR CELL.
RING-RING-RING!
VIN
Sorry, but I'm canceling our date at the last minute. I'm on my way to Shizuoka. — Tatsuya

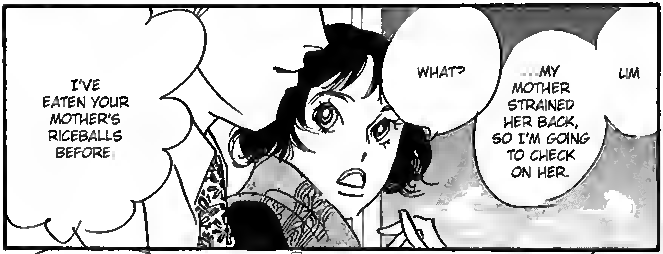
HEY—! TEA— BUY SOME TEA, TOO!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!
HUFF
HUFF
THEN LET'S BUY IT ON THE TRAIN GET ON, GET ON!
IT'S TAKING OFF NOW~
Heh!!


HI.
SORRY, I'M IN THE WINDOW SEAT.
HUFF
HUFF
WE WILL SOON BE MAKING A BRIEF STOP AT SHIN-YOKO-HAMA—
COFFEE, LUNCH BOXES
Here!

ONLY MILK
TWO SUGARS!
CREAM AND SUGAR?
WE'RE NOT TOGETHER
TWO COFFEES?
Um
...
OH? THANK YOU.
IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN SHARE THIS.
WHIP AROUND!
TATSUYA-KUN?
HARE-CHAN?

I'M GOING BACK TO TAKE CARE OF THE ALUMNI REUNION ARRANGEMENTS FOR I-MIDDLE SCHOOL
I'M A HAIR STYLIST NOW IN KICHIJOJI*, NATURALLY!
HOW ABOUT YOURSELF?
SORRY, YOUR HAIR AND STYLE ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT, SO I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU
WHAT A SURPRISE— OH MY GOSH, IT'S BEEN SO LONG!

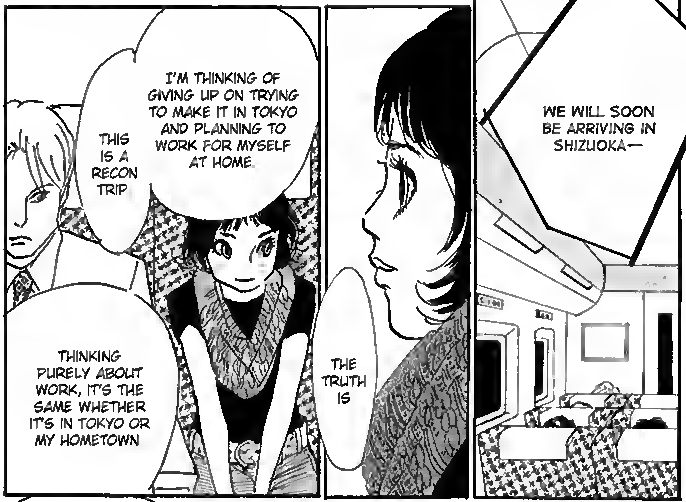
(T/N: Kichijoji is a trendy, artsy area in western Tokyo.)



YOUR MOTHER MADE SOOOOOOO MANY RICEBALLS, WE PASSED THEM AROUND TO THE FANS FROM OUR SCHOOL.
REMEMBER?
WHEN WE WERE AT THE REGIONAL FINALS IN CHUBU, AT TOKIWA GYMNASIUM?

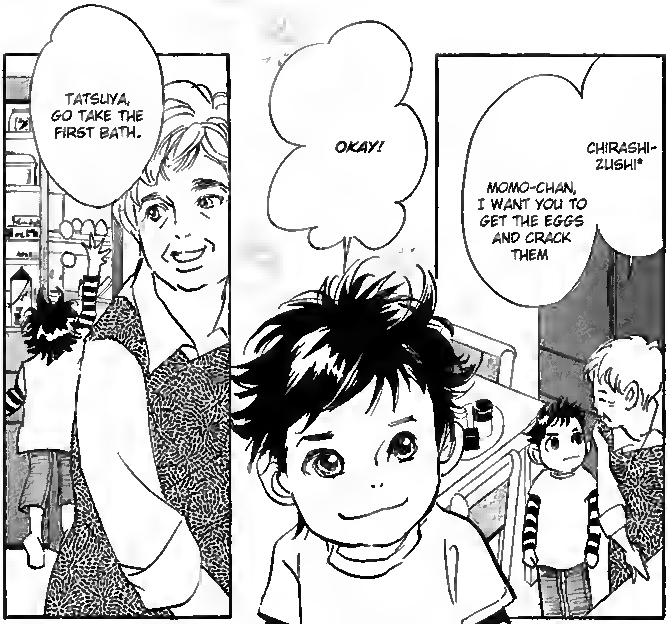
Sorry for replying so late. Did something happen?
Mm
Mm
I'll call you later.
There.
THE PHONE YOU ARE CALLING IS CURRENTLY OUTSIDE OF THE SERVICE AREA—
CLICK!
VIV
DID THAT... REALLY HAPPEN?
YUP. THEY WERE DELICIOUS.
THAT'S RIGHT! DO YOU REMEMBER YAMAGUCHI-SAN?

Real Clothes 3

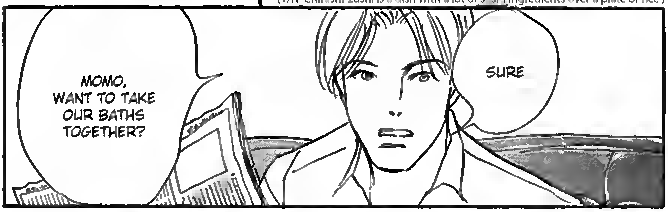

WE WILL SOON BE ARRIVING IN SHIZUOKA—
THE TRUTH IS
I'M THINKING OF GIVING UP ON TRYING TO MAKE IT IN TOKYO AND PLANNING TO WORK FOR MYSELF AT HOME.
THIS IS A RECON TRIP.
THINKING PURELY ABOUT WORK, IT'S THE SAME WHETHER IT'S IN TOKYO OR MY HOMETOWN

"TOKYO" HAS SUCH A BIAS AGAINST OUT-OF-TOWNERS, AND I WON'T GET ANYWHERE IF I DON'T DECIDE MY FUTURE
AND I'M ALREADY AT THAT AGE
IF I DON'T EVALUATE MY SKILLS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WITH A COOL HEAD, IT'LL ALL FALL APART.
I'M THINKING— MAYBE THE PLACE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IS OVER HERE.

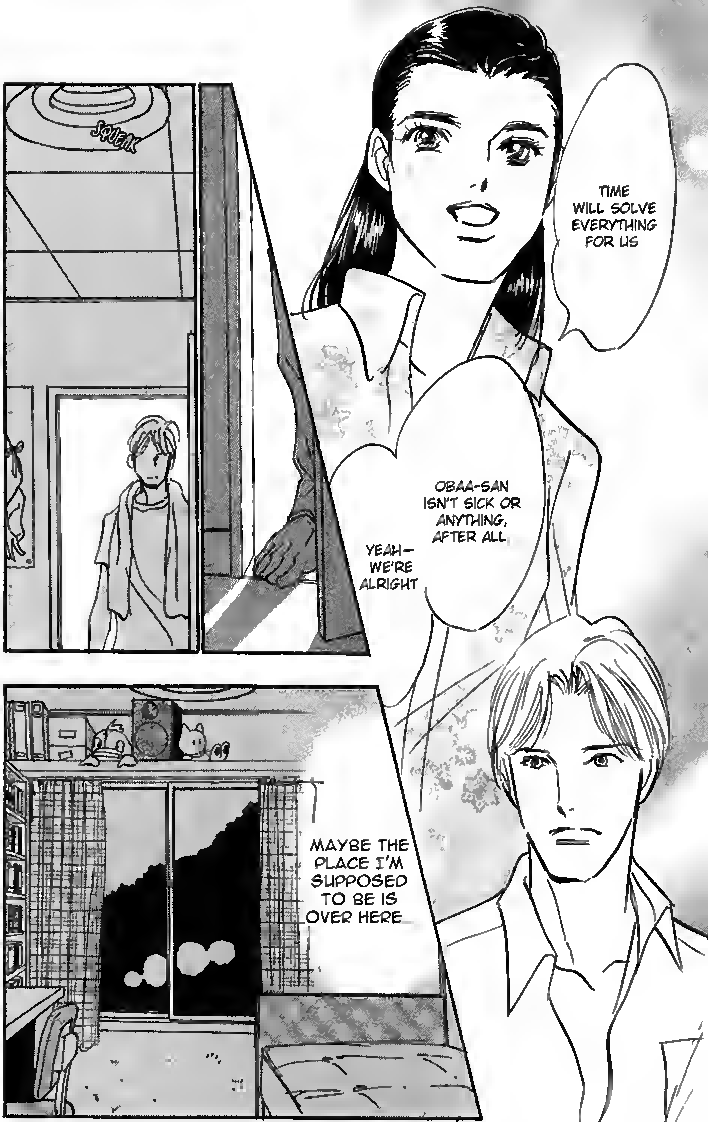
OBAA-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
SAY HI TO YOUR MOM AND DAD FOR ME.
HERE'S A COUPON. WILL YOU COME TO THE SHOP?
I'LL DO SOMETHING FOR YOU.
THA—
—NK YOU.
OH!
!



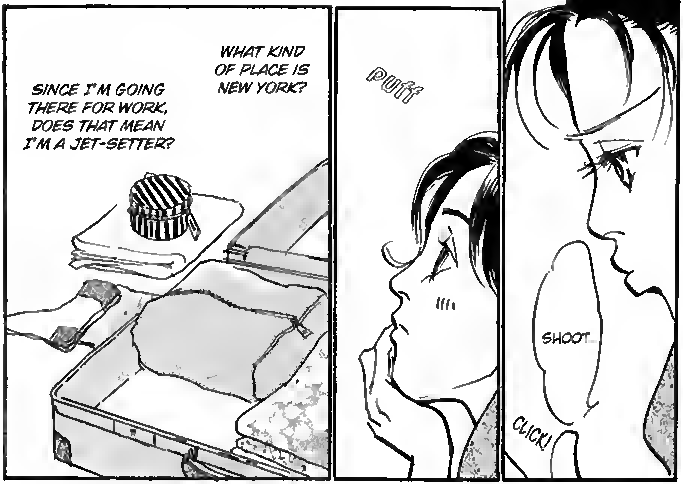
(T/N: Chirashi-zushi is a dish with a lot of sushi ingredients over a plate of rice.)



TATSUYA-KUN, THANKS FOR COMING
OBAA-SAN IS LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON. SHE LOOKS HAPPY AND HEALTHY— THANK GOD
MOMO'S LAUGHTER—
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I HEARD IT
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF
SORRY TO MUMBLE ON
I'M FINE I'M CAN STILL KEEP AT IT

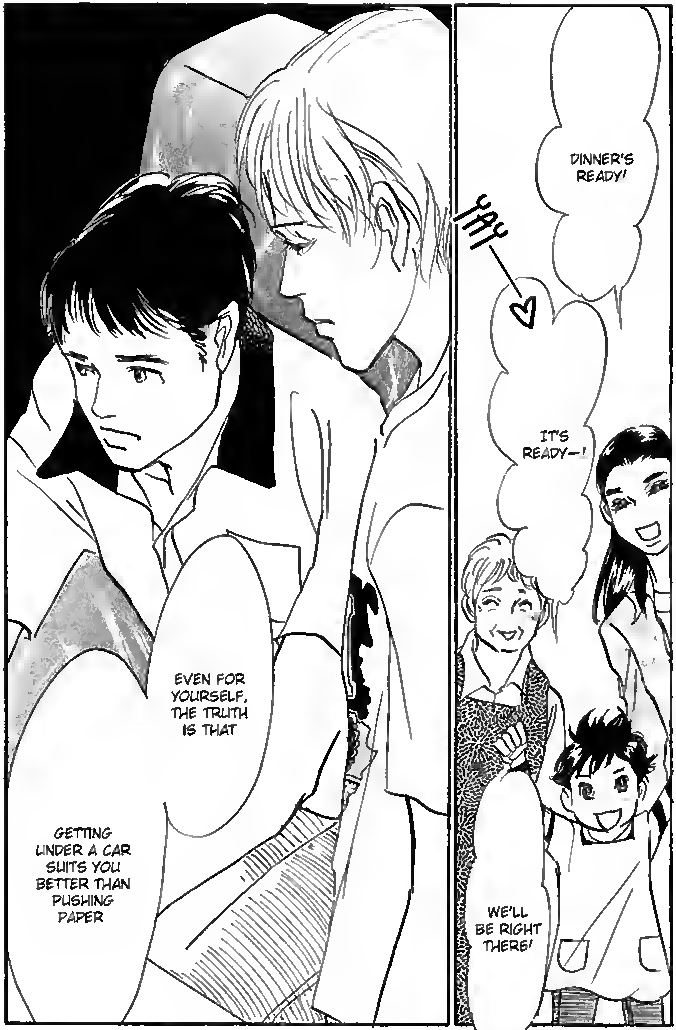

SQUEAK
TIME WILL SOLVE EVERYTHING FOR US
OBAA-SAN ISN'T SICK OR ANYTHING, AFTER ALL
YEAH— WE'RE ALRIGHT
MAYBE THE PLACE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IS OVER HERE

HOW'S IT GOING?
THE CARS SELLING?
MALTS
YEAH
OH!
IT'S KINUE. I FINALLY CAUGHT YOU! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. UH—
RIIIIUG!
TAKING CARE OF YOU AND KAA-SAN* AND MOMO
ABOUT KYOUKO-SAN— ISN'T SHE AT HER LIMIT?
AND THEN MANAGING THE BUSINESS ON TOP OF ALL THAT
(T/N: A less formal term for a mother)
AND THEN,
LISTEN, TODAY, I GOT MY PASSPORT TAKEN CARE OF
RIGHT HOW ISN'T A GOOD TIME
AH— SORRY TALK TO YOU LATER

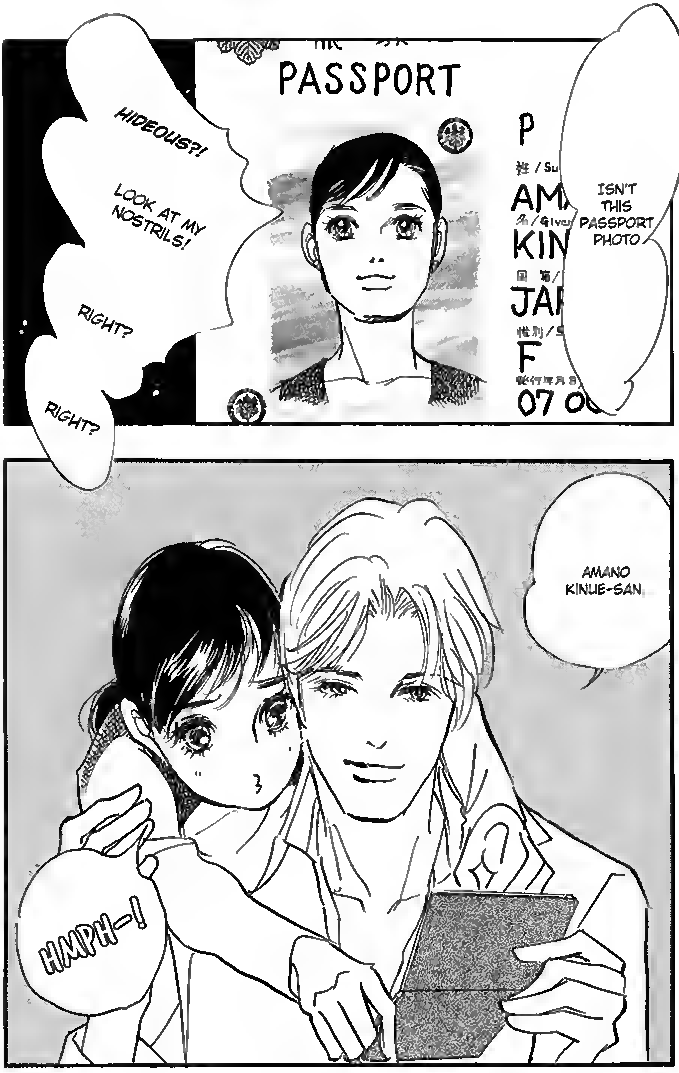

SINCE I'M GOING THERE FOR WORK, DOES THAT MEAN I'M A JET-SETTER?
WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS NEW YORK?
PUFF
SHOOT
CLICK!

HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH

HEE
HEE
HEE


DINNER'S READY!
JAY
IT'S READY—!
WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
EVEN FOR YOURSELF, THE TRUTH IS THAT
GETTING UNDER A CAR SUITS YOU BETTER THAN PUSHING PAPER

ANIKI,
IF I WERE TO COME BACK HERE,
HEY HEY, TATSUYA
I COULD HELP OUT WITH YAMAUCHI MOTORS
AFRICA


PASSPORT
HIDEOUS?!
LOOK AT MY NOSTRILS!
RIGHT?
RIGHT?
ISN'T THIS PASSPORT PHOTO
AMANO KINUE-SAN
HMPH-!

LET'S GET MARRIED.
PLOP...
End of Chapter 20

SUMMITED BY MARIS

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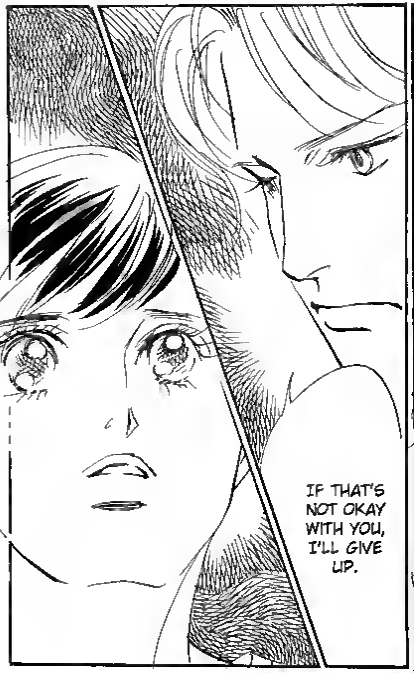
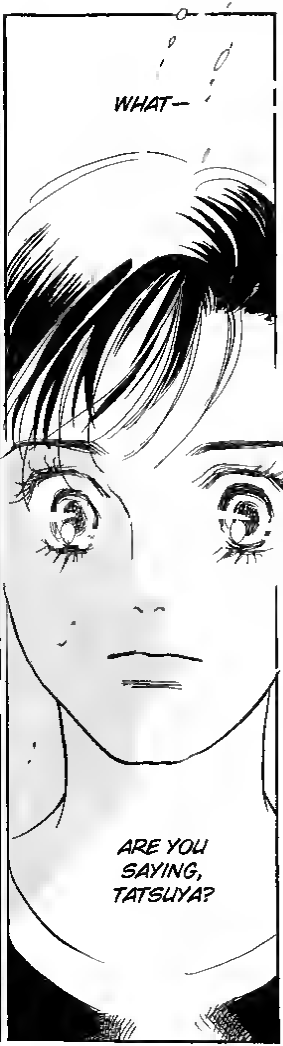
Real Clothes

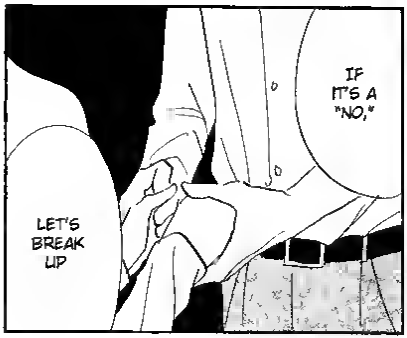
Real Clothes

Chapter 21

LET'S GET MARRIED. I'M RETURNING TO MY PARENTS' HOUSE. I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME.

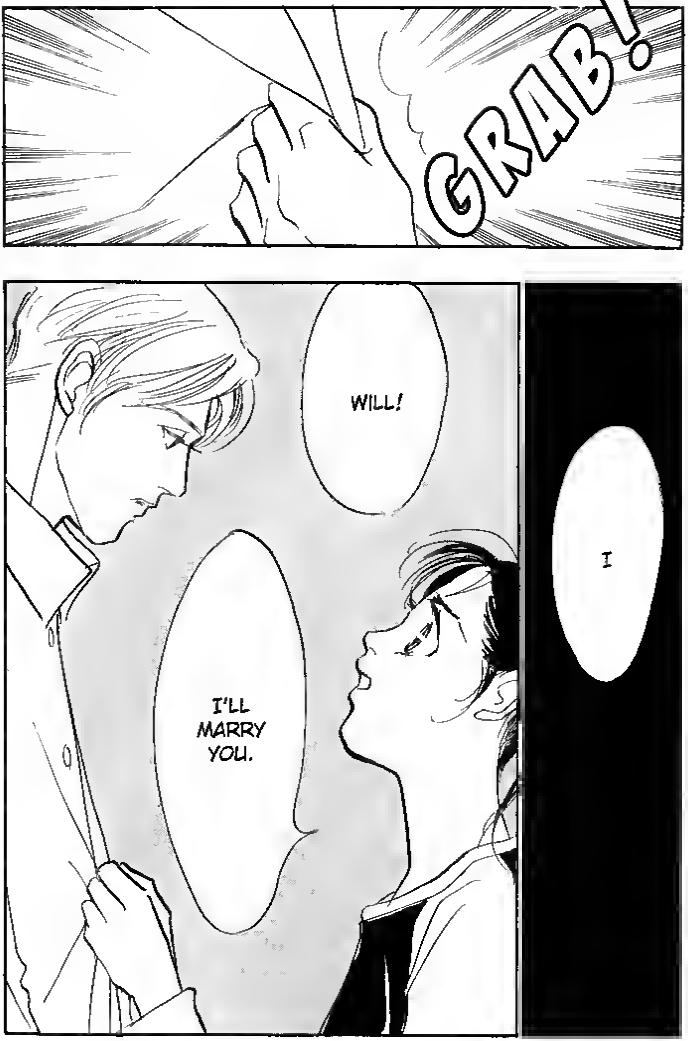

IF THAT'S NOT OKAY WITH YOU, I'LL GIVE UP.


WHAT—
ARE YOU SAYING, TATSUYA?

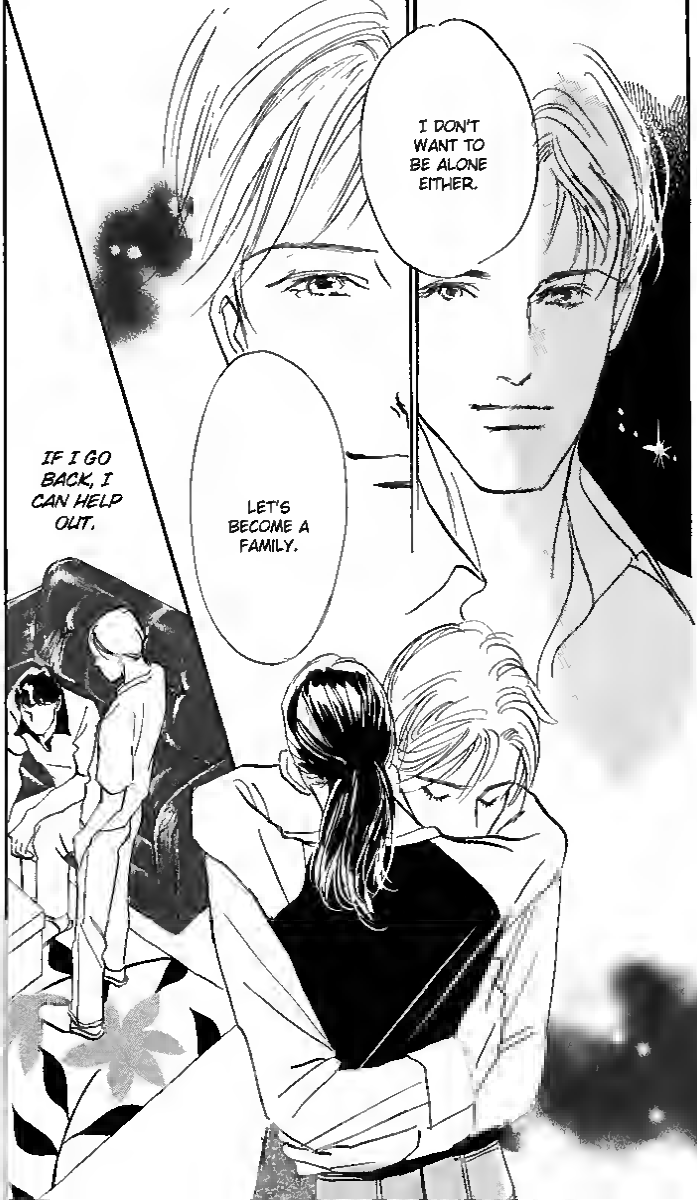

IF IT'S A "NO,"
LET'S BREAK UP

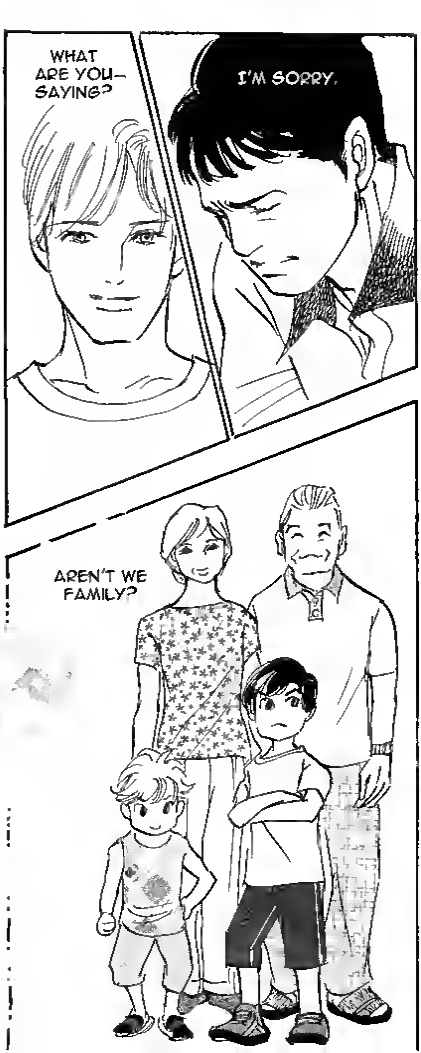
EH?!
B-B-BUMP
SLIP!

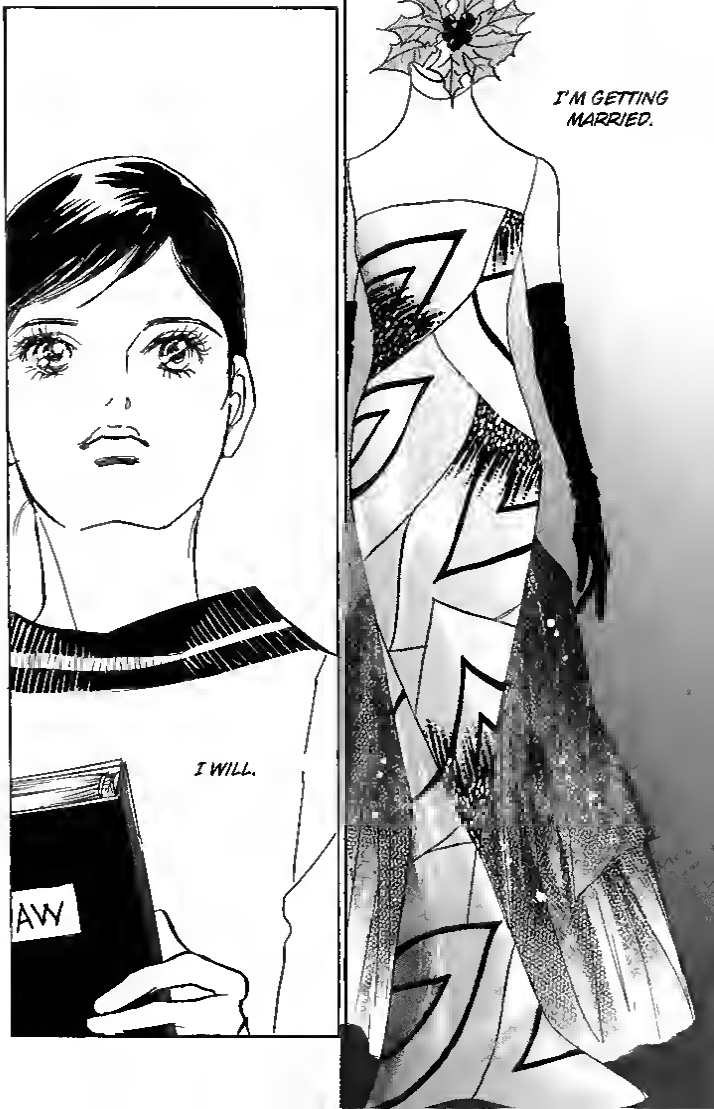
I'M SORRY IT'S SO SUDDEN, BUT—
"UP UNTIL NOW" AND "FROM NOW ON" ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
I CAN'T KEEP PLAYING AROUND ANYMORE.
B-BMP!
KYAAAA...
KINJE, THINK ABOUT IT NOW.
LET'S DISCUSS THIS AS MUCH AS WE CAN UNTIL YOU FEEL SATISFIED.
THOUGH, I'M GOING HOME TONIGHT.
B-BMP!


GRAB!
WILL!
I'LL MARRY YOU.
I

I'LL MARRY YOU!
I CAN'T EVEN CONSIDER BREAKING UP.
I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE—!
I DON'T WANT THAT!

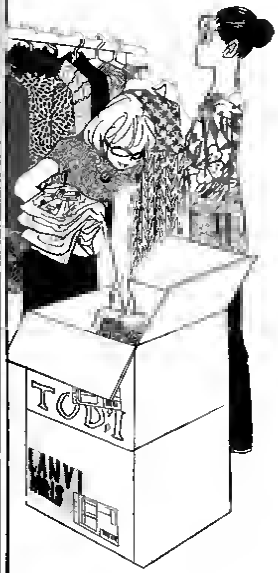

I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE EITHER.
LET'S BECOME A FAMILY.
IF I GO BACK, I CAN HELP OUT.


WHAT ARE YOU— SAYING?
I'M SORRY.
AREN'T WE FAMILY?


I'M GETTING MARRIED.
I WILL.
AW

I CAN'T ALWAYS BE HAPPY-GO-LUCKY, REHEARSING FOREVER.

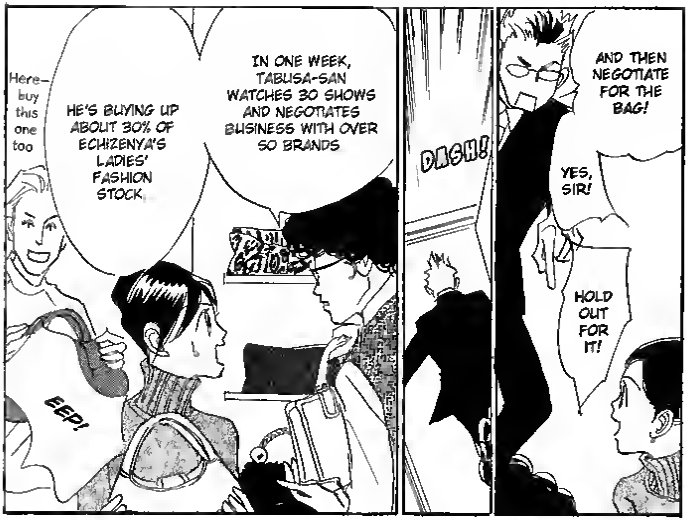
GETTING MARRIED IS THE START OF THE REAL PERFORMANCE.



I WILL LIVE TOGETHER WITH TATSUYA.

出発
DEPATU
GOOD MORNING.
LET'S GO!
YES, SIR!!

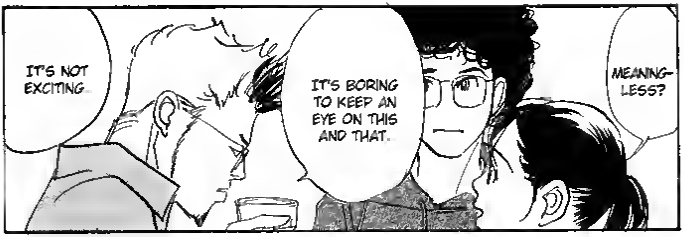
THIS WILL BE MY FIRST AND LAST OVERSEAS BUSINESS TRIP.
Voooom!

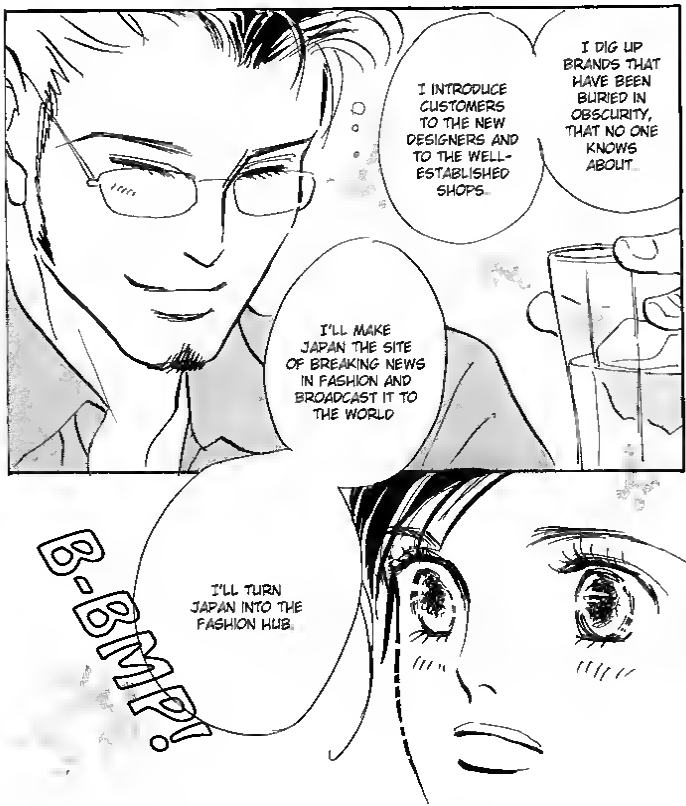

Here—buy this one too
HE'S BUYING UP ABOUT 30% OF ECHIZENYA'S LADIES' FASHION STOCK.
IN ONE WEEK, TABUSA-SAN WATCHES 30 SHOWS AND NEGOTIATES BUSINESS WITH OVER 50 BRANDS.
EEP!
DIGH!
AND THEN NEGOTIATE FOR THE BAG!
YES, SIR!
HOLD OUT FOR IT!

THE DESIGNERS KNOW IT TOO. "IF YOU SELL TO TABUSA, THE PATH TO JAPAN WILL OPEN UP"— AND THEY'RE DESPERATE.
UNLIKE IN PARIS, WE BUY THROUGH DIRECT SALES SO THAT WE CAN BUY NEW YORK'S READY-TO-WEAR LINES.
ALSO THE EURO IS STRONG, SO RIGHT NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY IN NEW YORK.

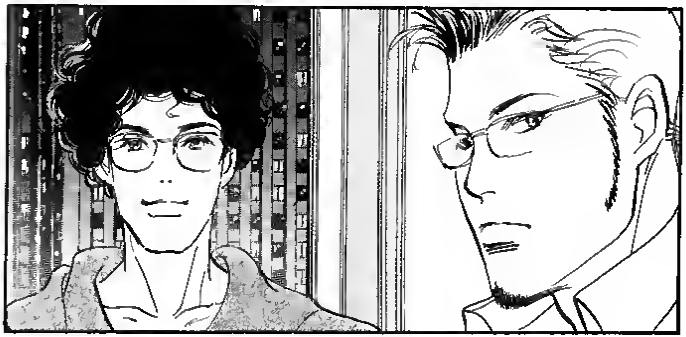
HOW PRETTY...
WHEEZE WHEEZE
WELCOME BACK
I'M BACK!
YES!
LET'S GO WATCH A PLAY.

FIFTY UNITS OF THIS ITEM AT A LIMITED TIME SALE BECAUSE IT'S RARE
WE'LL SELL IT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.
100 OF THIS ONE
GLAZED EYES
GEEZ —
DID YOU GO AROUND TO UNSCHEDULED BRANDS AGAIN?
HERE— THE MACALLAN 18 YEAR. OTSUKARE-SAMA.
SLUMP...
DO YOU KNOW BY INSTINCT WHAT BRAND WILL RISE IN PROMINENCE IN JAPAN?
BEAR
THAT'D BE MEANING-LESS


IT'S NOT EXCITING.
IT'S BORING TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS AND THAT.
MEANING-LESS?


I INTRODUCE CUSTOMERS TO THE NEW DESIGNERS AND TO THE WELL-ESTABLISHED SHOPS.
I DIG UP BRANDS THAT HAVE BEEN BURIED IN OBSCURITY, THAT NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT.
I'LL MAKE JAPAN THE SITE OF BREAKING NEWS IN FASHION AND BROADCAST IT TO THE WORLD
I'LL TURN JAPAN INTO THE FASHION HUB.
B-BMP!

THAT'S AMAZING!
BUT,
A DEPARTMENT STORE IS TOO LIMITED FOR THAT
THAT'S —
THAT'S COMPLICATED
GULP
THERE'LL BE A LOT OF OPPOSITION, I'M SURE



NOW, NOW TABUSA-SAN YOU'RE DRUNK GO TAKE A SHOWER.
I'M GONNA PUKE.
MM
WHO SAID I'LL DO IT AT ECHIZENYA?
HUH?
THIS PERSON IS ..
Echizen!
THINKING BIGGER THAN THE COMPANY.

WE'RE GONNA BUY TODAY TOO!!
THIS PERSON IS LOOKING OUTRAGEOUSLY FAR AHEAD

End of Chapter 21